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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Community reacts to Teng's resignation

by Zak Szymanski

Her last several months in office may have been plagued with investigations and personal hardship, but to many in the LGBT community, Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng will be remembered for her courage, strength, and leadership on issues like gay marriage. Likewise, said Teng, her involvement with last year's same-sex marriages and her activism on behalf of the gay community stands above her other political achievements.



Mabel Teng

"To embrace the community – and to be embraced by the community – that was the most significant moment in my political career," Teng told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a telephone interview on Tuesday, April 19. The city's decision to issue same-sex marriage licenses in 2004 was "something I didn't expect to happen within our lifetime, and it was such a significant – and sweet – moment," she said.

Last week, Teng announced that she was resigning as the city's assessor-recorder to give more attention to her personal life. In the last year – amidst allegations that her office had given unfair promotions and tax breaks to friends and family – Teng's 21-year marriage broke up, and her twin daughters left the house for college, events that prompted her to re-evaluate her priorities, she said.

Mayor Gavin Newsom will name Teng's successor.

Teng's long local political career includes a stint on the city's community college board, followed by her 1994 election as the first female Chinese American city supervisor, a position she held until narrowly losing re-election in 2000.

Teng won the hard-fought campaign for assessor-recorder in 2002, and last year, gained national recognition for her work to process as many gay marriage licenses as possible before the looming court injunctions. Teng also personally presided over numerous gay marriages and often appeared as a spokeswoman for the issue on camera and in the press. Many LGBT groups and individuals recognized her for her service during that critical time, including the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee, which honored her as a community grand marshal in last year's parade.

The gay marriages were a source of pride and accomplishment for Teng, said Deputy Assessor-Recorder Minna Tao.

"The most amazing thing was the

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Disappointment over Pope Benedict XVI

by Ed Walsh

In 1998, polar opposites in the Catholic Church had a chance meeting.

Jeannine Gramick was a nun and a leading advocate for gays and lesbians in the church. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was one of the Vatican's most vociferous hardliners against liberalizing the church's teachings on homosexuality.

Ratzinger had been investigating the organization with which Gramick worked, New Ways Ministry, for 20 years. Gramick's requests for a meeting with him were denied. Her impromptu meeting took place on a plane en route from Rome to Munich where Ratzinger was on his way to vacation. Gramick introduced herself and the two sat together and chatted for 20 minutes.

"I asked him if he ever met any gay people," Gramick told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a telephone interview on Tuesday, April 19, shortly after it was announced that Ratzinger, 78, would be the new leader of the Catholic



Pope Benedict XVI

Church, taking the name of Pope Benedict XVI.

His response was very surprising and telling for Gramick. He told her that the only contact that he had had with gay people was seeing them protest against Pope John Paul II in Berlin.

Gramick told the *B.A.R.* that she knew otherwise. A lesbian who had dined with Ratzinger several times because he was friends with one of the woman's relatives, told Gramick that she couldn't come out to Ratzinger because

she didn't think she could come out to her relative. Gramick said her conversation with Ratzinger, and with the lesbian who knows him, drives home the importance for gay people to effect change simply by being honest about who they are.

Gramick said her conversation with Ratzinger was cordial and that he mostly listened. She noted that shortly after she introduced herself, Ratzinger said, "Oh, I've known you for 20 years," referring to his investigation into her ministry to gays and les-

biens.

On her reaction to Ratzinger being selected as pope, Gramick responded: "It's a great disappointment, a deep disappointment. It doesn't make my work of advocacy any easier. It makes it much more difficult."

Gramick's opinion was echoed by other LGBT activists.

"The princes of the Roman Catholic Church elected as pope a man whose record has been one of unrelenting, venomous hatred for gay people," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman in a statement issued shortly after Ratzinger's selection. "In fact, during the reign of John Paul II, Cardinal Ratzinger was the driving force



Sister Jeannine Gramick

behind a long string of pronouncements using the term 'evil' to describe gay people, homosexuality, and marriage equality."

"We hope that Pope Benedict XVI will follow the biblical tradition of expressing love and compassion for all," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese in a press release. "In the past, he has made deeply dis-

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Historic gay marriage film debuts at Castro

by Zak Szymanski

It was a moment in history of such great magnitude that it could not possibly have been predicted. On February 12, 2004, Mayor Gavin Newsom married longtime lesbian activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, energizing a nationwide movement that drew thousands of LGBT people to San Francisco City Hall and created controversy even within gay circles.

A few key players were there from the beginning, with city officials and advocates working behind the scenes to ensure that the same-sex marriages would go off without a hitch, and with filmmakers Geoff Callan and Mike Shaw with their cameras rolling before the first "I Do" was even uttered.

Callan is Newsom's brother-in-law. A career filmmaker with a string of prominent credits to his name, it was only obvious that Newsom would call him to document the events as they happened. What wasn't planned, of course, was the dramatic month of marriages and denied court injunctions, followed by the expected halt to the wed-



Mayor Gavin Newsom looks at the marriage certificate of lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon in an image from *Pursuit of Equality*.

dings, a court-ordered nullification of the licenses, and most recently, a favorable ruling that declared the state's ban on gay marriage to be unconstitutional.

What started as a short-term project has taken over the lives of Callan, producer/director, and Shaw, director/editor, who said they had no choice but to follow the stories of everyone in-

involved. They are joined on the project by associate producer John Fraser and digital artist Paul Byrd.

On Sunday, April 24, their final product, *Pursuit of Equality*, will make its world premiere at the Castro Theatre as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival. The filmmakers – along with Newsom, Lyon and Martin, and others featured in the footage – will attend the event, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Callan said he is confident that the film has captured how the marriages were "a life-changing experience for all of us."


"We have dedicated ourselves to nothing else except this film because we believe it is so important," said Callan, who got the call from Newsom on February 11, 2004 to show up at City Hall the next day. From their unique vantage points the

filmmakers were able to capture the first wedding ceremonies, Newsom's decision-making process from his office, and Rosie O'Donnell's marriage to her partner Kelli Carpenter, as well as scenes from relevant courthouses and protests from the opposition.

"It goes really deep into all of the stories.

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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Denham's HIV transmission bill stalled

by Zak Szymanski

A controversial HIV criminalization bill was withdrawn from the state Senate's public safety committee last week, but its author has promised to add some amendments and submit it for reconsideration later this month.

SB235, by Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced), seeks to "punish and deter those who knowingly infect others with the human immunodeficiency virus," according to his statement. After testimony and debate at the committee hearing on Tuesday, April 12, it was apparent that the bill would not advance as written. The legislative process permits Denham to ask for a vote from the committee at the next meeting on April 26.

Originally, the bill would have lowered the standards for what constitutes felony HIV transmission under existing law by removing the "specific intent" requirement — a burden of proof difficult to establish in court — and simply calling for prosecution of HIV-positive people who engage in unprotected sex without disclosure, regardless of their intent or whether HIV was actually transmitted.

Recently amended, however, the bill left current law as it is and created a new section of the state's Health and Safety Code that de-

fined unsafe sex without disclosure as a crime punishable by jail time with either misdemeanor or felony charges up to the discretion of a district attorney.

Yet without requiring "specific intent" to infect somebody, said Nick Rappley, spokesman for Denham, the bill walked too slippery a slope for some of the legislators in committee. Therefore, said Rappley, more amendments will be added to the bill to actually redefine what constitutes intent, rather than doing away with that requirement entirely.

"Under current law, a felony is so hard to prove because the standard for 'specific intent' is so high. What we proposed was a statute where very little intent was involved, where the standard for a crime was just above negligence and a person was acting recklessly," said Rappley. "Some committee members were concerned that there was no threshold for intent. So we're putting intent back into this bill. And the proof for intent would be 'reckless disregard.'"

The state Senate's public safety committee consists of five Democrats and two Republicans. A majority vote is necessary to pass a bill out of committee.

Despite the proposed amendments, public health advocates remain committed to stopping the bill. Bart Broome, a legislative assistant to Assemblyman Paul Ko-

retz (D-West Hollywood), watched last week's committee hearing and praised Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Dana Van Gorder for their strong testimony against the bill.

Some concerns about HIV criminalization bills include the fact that an alleged offender must know his or her HIV status in order to be prosecuted, thereby removing incentive for anyone engaging in risky behavior to be tested at all.

Advocates like Van Gorder also note that punishing HIV-positive people who don't have protected sex does not stop the possibility of future HIV transmission.

"For people having major issues with engaging safely, we believe it is better for them to go through counseling rather than to be put in jail. All that really accomplishes is to transfer the problem to jail," Van Gorder told the *Bay Area Reporter* when the bill was first introduced.

Van Gorder told the *B.A.R.* this week that even with the amendments, Denham's bill faces an uphill battle. The existing HIV statute around felony transmission is already backed up by a misdemeanor law addressing the transmission of communicable diseases, he said.

"I don't think the committee feels there is a need to do anything more," he said. ▼

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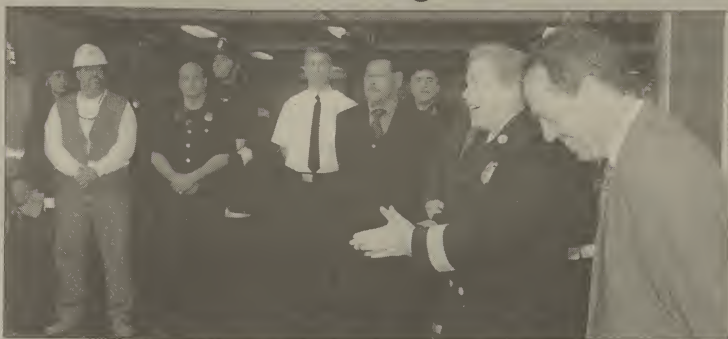
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New tools for firefighters



Marc Geller

On Monday, April 18, the 99th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, representatives from Pacific Gas and Electric Company donated chainsaws, a portable ventilator, and other tools valued at \$15,000 to the San Francisco Fire Department. The donation was made at Fire Station No. 6 in the Castro. Supervisor Bevan Dufty, right, and Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White accepted the donation, along with fire and PG&E officials. "Besides being an important tool to access quake-damaged buildings, these saws can also be used for more common firefighting and rescue operations," said Hayes-White.

Apparent suicide frustrates friends

by Ed Walsh

As they mourn his death, friends have been frustrated by the lack of information surrounding the apparent suicide of a 54-year-old San Francisco man. Daniel Dryer was found dead on Friday, April 1, in his Franklin Street apartment.

"He must have been terribly lonely," said longtime friend Al Thacker, as his voice broke with emotion. "I didn't know. It's terribly sad."

The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that its preliminary report indicated that Dryer's cause of death was suicide by hanging.

Friends say Dryer had been depressed since the death of his partner, the Reverend Robert Royall, nearly 10 years ago. Royall died of a brain tumor.

The Reverend Robert Cromey worked with Royall at Trinity Episcopal Church. Cromey, who has since retired, contacted the B.A.R. in the hopes that the paper could find out what happened. Cromey said he and other friends of Dryer's tried in vain to confirm rumors that Dryer had committed suicide.

"Dan's friends and fellow parishioners would like to find out what happened to Dan," Cromey told the B.A.R.

Cromey said that Dryer's friends contacted Dryer's building manager, police, the coroner's office, and the city morgue but no one would give them any information.

The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office told the B.A.R. that Dryer's body was turned over to the Green Street Mortuary. The mortuary said the National Cremation Service is handling the case. The cremation service told the B.A.R. that Dryer's cremated remains were sent to his brother in Maryland. National Cremation Service had no information of any memorial services. A woman who answered the phone at the company said she would pass along a message to Dryer's brother to call the B.A.R. The call was not returned by press time.

Dryer's friends said they would like to participate in a memorial



Daniel Dryer in an undated photo

service for him but it has been difficult because his death has been shrouded in rumor and secrecy.

Eve Meyer, the executive director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, told the B.A.R. that the problems of depression and suicide are made worse by silence. She agreed that too often the subject is treated as an unspeakable taboo.

"The 'unspeakable taboo' has definitely made things worse because when someone gets that withdrawn, it's made it harder for friends to ask, 'Are you thinking of suicide?' By asking, you are not putting that thought into somebody's head," she said.

Meyer cited a Columbia University study just released two weeks ago. The report was based on surveys of 2,342 high school students. It found that asking a troubled person whether he or she is contemplating suicide could ultimately reduce the likelihood of the person committing suicide. The study's authors suggested that discussing suicide might help to unburden someone who is considering it. Not raising the question may lead a suicidal person to conclude that no one cares, the authors theorized.

Richard Turley, a longtime friend and former neighbor of Dryer and Royall's, told the B.A.R. that Dryer likely was suffering from a depression that was triggered by Royall's death.

"I think he was kind of lost after Robert died," said Turley. "Robert was totally his life."

Turley added, "[Dryer] had such a sweet face. He was such a kind man."

Thacker said he last saw Dryer a few weeks ago and that he appeared cheerful and in good health. Thacker noted that Dryer worked in the bookstore at Grace Cathedral until he resigned in 2002. Thacker said that Dryer was a "sweet, kind person" but he became increasingly reclusive and it was difficult for him to interact and be "up" in his job dealing with the public every day.

Dryer's friends said that they wished that he asked for help. Meyer said that it's not uncommon for depressed people to hide their depression from others and to resist reaching out to ask for help. She said that she hoped that the tragedy of Dryer's apparent suicide could help his friends better recognize severe depression in themselves and others.

"While that message never got through to [Dryer] at least it can get through to the friends who are going through this pain," Meyer said.

Meyer added that depressed people often don't realize that the depression itself, not external factors, is the real problem.

"The disease of depression somehow - and we don't know how - fights help. And the way it seems to do that is by delivering a message to the person that says, 'you are this way because you are supposed to be.' Instead, the message should be that something is wrong and it can be fixed."

"The brain is not like a computer that will tell you in an error message what part is not functioning. The brain may get broken but it will blame the environment for the broken spot rather than itself," Meyer explained.

She added that depression is often a vicious cycle because a depressed person's brain often fights the help that can lead to overcoming depression.

Said Meyer, "The brain itself gets broken and instead of saying 'help me,' it says 'you deserve it.'"

San Francisco Suicide Prevention's 24-hour crisis hotline is (415) 781-0500. For more information, visit www.sfsuicide.org.



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Call for 'AIDS Heroes' nominations

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Organizers of the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil are seeking nominations for this year's AIDS Heroes Awards. The awards are an effort to acknowledge the contributions made by people living with HIV/AIDS, individuals impacted by the disease, and local AIDS organizations. The awards are dedicated in honor of a number of deceased Bay Area AIDS activists, and vigil organizers will determine which specific award is most appropriate to each of this year's honorees.

Organizers noted that recognizing people living with HIV/AIDS is a high priority, though not a requirement for the award. In the past, awards have been extended to those people or organizations that have significantly contributed to the fight against the pandemic. Self-nominations are acceptable.

The deadline for submission is Friday, April 29. Those who are selected are asked to receive their award Thursday, May 5 at 8 p.m. in a ceremony at the Center for Sex and Culture, 398 11th Street in San Francisco. Nominations should be sent to: AIDS Heroes c/o Center for Sex and Culture, 2215-R Market Street, Post Box 455, San Francisco, CA 94114 or e-mailed to AIDSHeroes@yahoo.com.

The AIDS Candlelight Vigil takes place Sunday, May 15 at 8 p.m. at Market and Castro streets. A pre-vigil benefit takes place from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Edge bar, 4149 18th Street.

For more information on the awards or the vigil, or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities,

call (415) 331-1500, ext. 2437.

Dine out next week

More than 60 restaurants across San Francisco will take part in next week's "Dining Out for Life," that benefits the Stop AIDS Project. The annual event has been a success for Stop AIDS, and last year raised \$120,000 for the HIV prevention organization.

Dining Out for Life takes place next Thursday, April 28, at various restaurants for breakfast, lunch, and dinner (though not all restaurants take part in all meals). The unique fundraising idea partners participating restaurants with diners for a meal out. The restaurants donate 25 percent of patrons' total food

for a list of participating eateries, visit www.stopaids.org and click on the Dining Out for Life link, or visit www.diningoutforlife.com and click on San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 575-0150, ext. 260.

Oral HIV testing in San Mateo County

The Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center now offers free, confidential, and anonymous standard oral HIV antibody testing in San Mateo County, with results available in one week. Tests are available by appointment at the North County Health Clinic, Room 108, 380 9th Street, in Daly City, on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The next testing date is April 25. For appointments, call (650) 669-0482.

API also offers free confidential and anonymous rapid oral (results available in one hour) and standard oral HIV antibody testing at its San Francisco office, located at 730 Polk Street in the Ten-

derloin. Rapid HIV testing is available every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m., by appointment only (call 415-292-3420, ext. 304). Standard oral HIV testing is available on a drop-in basis every Wednesday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. No blood is drawn during either test, and both are pain-free.

API also provides counseling throughout the testing process, in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Japanese, and English. Interpretation services are available for other Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

For more information about the organization, visit www.api-wellness.org.

HIV site up for Webby

Better World Advertising's HIV Stops With Me Web site is being honored again with a nomination by the Webby Awards for the "People's Voice" Award. The Webby, which honors excellence in Web design, creativity, usability, and functionality, will be announced on May 3. A ceremony is set for June 6 in New York City.

The HIV Stops With Me site won a People's Voice Webby in 2003.

HIV Stops With Me is a groundbreaking Internet campaign designed specifically for HIV-positive people in order to unite their community to stop the epidemic. The site educates the public on the importance of honesty and disclosure in the HIV-positive community. As part of the campaign, print ads featuring the site's spokesmodels run in various community papers, including the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The site includes up to date resources, a monthly column, e-mail bulletins, and event calendars for different cities across the country.

To vote for the site, visit www.webbyawards.com and click on the People's Voice Award. ▼

Mayor appoints Cassiol as gay liaison

by Matthew s. Bajko

The LGBT community has a new point person inside City Hall - Jim "Jimmer" Cassiol. Mayor Gavin Newsom named Cassiol this week as his liaison to the LGBT community and representative for District 8, which covers the Castro, Noe Valley, and Glen Park neighborhoods.

Cassiol, 41 and openly gay, assumed his new roles Tuesday, April 19. A District 8 resident who lives near Dolores Park, Cassiol had served as the office manager for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. He worked as the office manager of Newsom's campaign headquarters during his race for mayor in 2003.

He replaces Joe Caruso, who served as the mayor's former liaison to the LGBT community and de facto District 8 representative while working as MONS director. Last month Caruso left that position and now works in the Office of Emergency Services.



New LGBT liaison Jimmer Cassiol

"I think it is a great opportunity. I was assisting Joe doing a lot of the work already," said Cassiol. "It was kind of a natural progression since I had been helping Joe with it."

In addition to promoting Cassiol to his new position, Newsom also named Daniel Homsey, his

manager for constituent relations, as MONS director. Homsey will earn \$85,098 and Cassiol \$44,000.

To save money, Homsey's former position, which paid \$75,000 annually, will be left vacant.

In making his announcements, Newsom praised both men, saying he is confident in their ability to provide excellent customer service to diverse communities in the city.

"The Office of Neighborhood Services is the public's primary point of contact with the mayor and city government," said Newsom. "San Franciscans should expect city government to respond quickly and effectively to their needs. They have a right to outstanding customer service that allows them to easily access city services, and get their needs met quickly."

Caruso said he wishes both men well in their new positions and had one piece of advice for handling their new duties.

"Return peoples' phone calls," he said.

Lesbian Muslim takes on the left and right

by Matthew S. Bajko

Since she released her best selling book *The Trouble with Islam* in September 2003, Irshad Manji has become public enemy number one for many Muslims the world over. A lesbian Muslim who openly questions the theology of conservative Muslim clerics, Manji's life has been repeatedly threatened, and until a year ago, she employed bodyguards for public appearances.

Today, Manji travels alone, her only security measure making do without a cell phone. Police have warned her anyone wishing to do her harm could use GPS technology to locate her whereabouts via a cell. Her decision stems out of her message to young Muslims: "Don't silence yourselves. Ask questions out loud."

"If I am going to have continued credibility conveying to young Muslims it is possible to dissent and live then I have to lead by example," said Manji during an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, April 18. "I can't have big burly men by my side everywhere I go because these kids can't have that."

Manji, 36, spoke at a luncheon sponsored by the LGBT Community Center. Her speech, titled "Confessions of a Muslim Dissident: Why I Fight for Women, Jews, Gays and Allah," drew 40 people. Recognized by *Out* magazine as one of the "100 Success Stories of 2004," Manji spent two days in the Bay Area, speaking to the LGBT community and college students at Stanford and Univer-



Lesbian Muslim author Irshad Manji at the LGBT Community Center.

sity of California at Berkeley, and local feminists.

She continues to promote her book, now out in paperback and retitled *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*. The book has been released in over 20 countries, with deals signed last week for it to be printed in Turkey, India, and Iraq.

A Pakistani edition came out in January, and since then the hate mail has picked up so much so that Pakistan is the only country Manji refuses to travel to now.

The book is also available on her Web site in Arabic, due to requests from young people in Arab countries who e-mailed Manji

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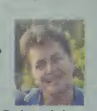
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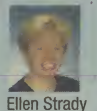
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OPEN FORUM

Hardliner at the helm

We weren't surprised by the selection of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the new pope. Ratzinger, who took the name Benedict XVI after he was elected the leader of the 1.1 billion-member Roman Catholic Church Tuesday, is a scary prospect for us, and his elevation to pontiff very likely means that gays and lesbians will continue to be hammered by the Vatican in the foreseeable future. Benedict XVI was Pope John Paul II's confidant, and enforcer of church doctrine for nearly 24 years. As such, the new pope does have an opinion on the issue of gay Catholics—he'd like to kick them out of the church. Actually, he's already done that by denying any gay Catholic organizations from using church property. Dignity/San Francisco has for years been forced to hold its weekly Mass in a Protestant church. He spent 20 years to get a Catholic priest and nun to end their ministry to gays. On Monday just before the start of the conclave, in what could be seen as a lobbying effort for the top job, he strongly urged his fellow cardinals not to bow to modern trends but to defend traditional Vatican doctrines.

In short, the new pope is a hardliner who will maintain aggressive opposition to positive change in the modern world.

Last week, then-Cardinal Ratzinger published a book in Germany, which argued that Europe must reclaim its Christian heritage if it is to survive its "life-threatening crisis," according to a Reuters report. He criticized the collapse of what he called "traditional" families and the drive to legalize gay marriage, a trend he said that meant "the entire moral history of mankind is being left behind."

As a cardinal, Ratzinger's most public denunciation of homosexuals was delivered in a 1986 letter to bishops. In it, he wrote, "Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil."

Many gay people struggle with their faith, and the Catholic Church is certainly not the

only religious denomination that wants us to disappear. The Anglican Communion is still deeply divided over the elevation of openly gay Gene Robinson as an Episcopal bishop. The Methodists defrocked a Pennsylvania minister last year because she's a lesbian. The list goes on and on. Why these churches can't abide by the ethic of "love thy neighbor" is a mystery to us.

But the Catholic Church is the world's largest, which means it has the biggest megaphone and the widest influence. Every time the former pope issued a calculated statement condemning us, it was picked up by the news wires.

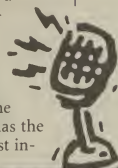
We expect the same thing to happen under Benedict XVI, since it was likely he had had a hand in the public statements issued by John Paul II. The cardinals must have wanted what to them would seem a smooth tran-

sitional period after the death of a popular (to non gays, at least) pope, and in choosing Ratzinger they signaled that the status quo will remain—condemnations and all.

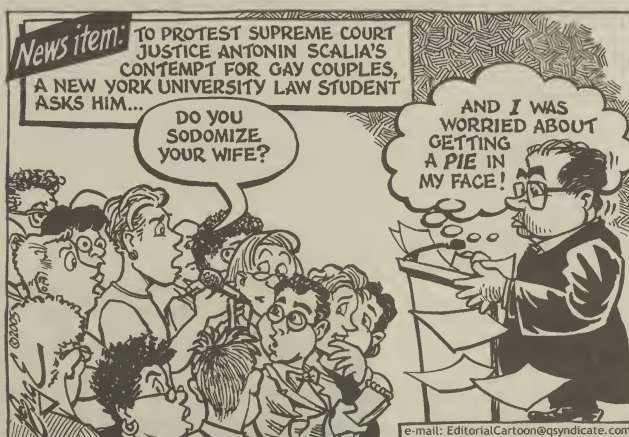
What about problems like AIDS in the developing world? Forget about it. Benedict XVI will not back down on the church's refusal to sanction the use of condoms to prevent the disease, in Africa (with its growing Catholic population) or anywhere else. The Vatican will retain its mostly hands-off response to the priest sexual abuse scandal here and in other countries. Ordaining women as priests? Not a chance.

During his first remarks as pope, Benedict referred to himself Tuesday as "a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard."

But it's what he's been sowing throughout his career that worries us. ▼



Editorial

Peace in the Middle East:
LGBTs lead by example

by Bevan Dufty

Last month, I spent 10 days in Israel as part of a mostly non-Jewish San Francisco delegation, including African American, Latino, Asian American members and three Christian clergy.

As a gay person, I found inspiration in Israel's growing LGBT elected and community leadership. As a gay Jew, I was moved by their demonstrated commitment to be inclusive of Arabs and Palestinians.

Sa'ar Netanel is Jerusalem's first openly gay city council member. A trailblazer and tenacious LGBT advocate, Netanel contends with Jerusalem's first ultra-Orthodox mayor, who has been a mouthpiece for hate and homophobia.

While we were in Israel, Netanel won an important victory around the opening of the architecturally striking new building at Yad Vashem, the Jewish Holocaust Memorial. For the first time, there is an exhibit about the persecution of homosexuals in the Holocaust in response to council member Netanel's repeated requests.

We also met Hagai El-Ad, who left Harvard's graduate astrophysics program to lead Jerusalem Open House, a grassroots, activist LGBT organization that opened a community center in 1999.

Jerusalem Open House is a remarkable center of achievements over the past six years. Just three years ago, JOH hired the first outreach coordinator for LGBT Palestinians, Haneen Maikay. JOH is now the region's largest producer of Arabic language materials about LGBT issues. We watched a short film about the first Jerusalem Pride celebration in 2003. It brought together Arabs and Israelis and for most

Jerusalemites was the first time seeing an LGBT gathering.

I visited a house for LGBTQ youth ages 15-18 in Tel Aviv. Nine young people, including two Arab youth, live together in a beautiful, vibrant household. Most of the young people were thrown out of their homes or subjected to violence when their homosexuality or transgender status was learned. In most cases, these young people are able to return home after an intensive three to six month period of family counseling and therapy. One of the Arab youths is both gay and deaf and his finding this LGBT haven is a triumph of human spirit.

Following the historic World Pride held in Rome in 2000, Hagai and JOH will lead the second World Pride in Jerusalem, set for August 18-25 (www.worldpride.net).

On one hand, some Israeli law is more advanced than the U.S., allowing citizens to sponsor same-sex partners for immigration purposes and gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. At the same time, goals of tolerance and pluralism are frequently undermined by the religious establishment.

Some have urged not attending World Pride to express disagreement with Israel's policies with respect to Palestinian territories and other issues.

Jerusalem Open House and other LGBT leaders are clear that their advocacy is on LGBT issues, pluralism, tolerance, and serving and supporting the needs of all community members, young and old.

On March 31, the world witnessed a rare joint press conference held by Israel's two

chief rabbis, patriarchs of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian churches, and three Muslim prayer leaders asking that Jerusalem's city government act to prevent World Pride from happening. Could there be a more powerful statement why this gathering is important? San Francisco's Pride theme is "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud." Isn't this exactly what the world needs to see in Jerusalem at World Pride?

As a Jew, I felt in Israel a hopefulness for peace for the first time in years. The change in Palestinian leadership to President Mahmoud Abbas has revived the peace process while challenging Israel to make necessary decisions that return land.

Hope is cautioned by the deep Israeli-Arab divide embodied in a security barrier in Jerusalem and millennia of conflict and war in this land. In this context, Israel is a young nation not yet 60 years in existence.

As a Jew, I have the dilemma of wanting Israel's future security protected and recognizing that conditions for Palestinians are unacceptable. It may take time, but movement toward a viable Palestinian state that can meet the needs of its people is essential. It requires difficult negotiations with respect to boundaries and recognition that future generations deserve peace.

Israel's LGBT community provides a courageous, compelling example of working towards a more inclusive, more just society and world. They deserve our presence and support. ▼

Bevan Dufty is a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

The new pope

The election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as pope is truly a disappointing though not surprising event for me. This is the very same man who evicted Dignity chapters throughout the U.S. from Roman Catholic space and silenced Sr. Jeannine Gramick and Fr. Bob Nugent whose pastoral work was geared towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people.

My skin crawls when I hear the words "unity," "openness," and "compassion" in connection with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. The Catholic Church is divided even if some people don't want to see it that way. There are liberals and conservatives within the church. Ratzinger clearly stands on one side and rejects the other. I don't consider kicking lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics out of Catholic space a sign of openness or compassion.

I was hoping that the man who followed John Paul II would be a man who would allow dialogue, even debate between opposing views within the Catholic Church. Instead, the College of Cardinals elects a man who uses power to crush dissent within the Catholic Church.

I recently realized that I've lost most of my motivation to continue practicing as a Roman Catholic. I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the church but until I am welcomed in the Catholic Church for everything that I am, the church can continue without me.

For us liberals, it's just another disappointment after Bush's re-election. Here comes another leader with a dictatorial bend.

Gilbert Gonzalez
San Francisco

Where's Dianne at parade time?

I'd like to make one major point regarding Dianne Feinstein and the Pink Brick: the news of her receiving this "award" will hardly make it out of the San Francisco gay community but her hurtful statements regarding gay marriage made every national news outlet in this country. If she's going to dish it out she better be able to take it. This will be my 20th Pride Parade in San Francisco and I've yet to see DiFi at any of them. Why is that? Even when she was mayor she was not in the parade. Why not?

Joe Mac
San Francisco

Angry at Feinstein

Throwing the "Pink Brick" at Dianne Feinstein this year helps make up for last year's oversight. If we really wanted to make a bold statement in response to the actions of our political "friends," the Pink Brick would have been awarded in last year's parade to John Kerry.

The evidence provided in last week's *B.A.R.* proving Feinstein's "friendship" made me even angrier with her ["This 'Brick' will boomerang!" Editorial, April 14]. Knowing that she presided over the AIDS crisis in San Francisco, and spent "countless hours" watching her friend die, how can she say that our claim for equal protection is "too much"? How can she justify her timid response to the Federal Marriage Amendment on the Senate floor when she knows how brave it was of her to stage a commitment ceremony in her backyard? And that ceremony was 30 years ago! Thirty years later, and Feinstein thinks it is "too fast" for us to have the same rights as all other Americans? One state after another is amending their constitution to limit our access to liberty. The federal government is attacking our ability to seek legal redress from the justice system. The efforts of those opposed to marriage equality advances the consolidation of church and state and fosters the erosion of the separation of powers, and yet Feinstein thinks it's "too soon" for us to demand justice.

When I have a difference of opinion with a friend, I try to recognize all of the things we have in common, and focus on the good parts of our relationship. If a friend insults me or is disrespectful, I have to make sure she knows she is wrong. Feinstein is up for re-election next year. This is our opportunity to let her know how wrong she is. She is wrong not to fight harder to protect our constitutional rights. She is wrong not to sponsor the Permanent Partners Immigration Act.

Some have suggested that there are more deserving candidates for the Pink Brick. Quite frankly, there aren't enough Pink Bricks in the world for all of the deserving recipients. We know who the obvious candidates are: Lou Sheldon, Karl Rove, Trent Lott, Tom Delay, Bill Frist, etc. They know that their political careers are advanced at our expense. Awarding the Pink Brick to any of those fools is like giving Bozo the Clown a new red ball for his nose.

The question we should ask is not whether we have gone too far with this gesture, but whether we

have gone far enough.

Patrick Connors
San Francisco

Café's good move

Kudos to the Castro's newest café, Le Bon Gateau, and manager Eric Brooks, for seeking to create a welcoming space for LGBT youth ["Café in the Castro welcomes queer youth," April 7]. And kudos to the *Bay Area Reporter* for covering this important issue.

The Bay Area is home to tens of thousands of LGBT youth and young adults. Yet – at a stage in life when all people, but especially LGBT people, crave social support systems and role models – LGBT youth are overlooked by, if not excluded from, many of our community's services, social spaces, and more.

It's especially exciting to see a neighborhood business take the lead in reaching a large, untapped market within our community and – at the same time – addressing a pressing community need. We look forward to working with the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, with whom we're launching a series of inclusion-related initiatives, and others to help more Bay Area LGBT businesses and organizations follow in Le Bon Gateau's footsteps.

Daniel A. Frattin
And Castro for All
San Francisco

Thoughts from a dissident

I am responding to not one, but two articles regarding drug treatment for HIV/AIDS. One is "Retrovirus confab looks at lipo, hep C, & heart" [March 24], the other is "Understanding steroids" [To Your Health, March 24].

Why would anyone want to take a toxic chemotherapy drug that causes muscle and facial wasting, pancreatitis, diabetes, and sudden death? Why would anyone want to take a drug, legal or illegal, that causes so much deterioration of the body that users later have to resort to steroids? The rationale that HIV/AIDS is potentially fatal has never been proven. AZT and protease inhibitors have, in some cases, been proven fatal (check out the *Physicians' Desk Reference*). The other argument that HIV/AIDS meds will prolong life has never been proven either. It has been shown, however, the HIV/AIDS meds do shorten life spans (again, check out the *Physicians' Desk Reference*).

I'm not attacking the American Medical Association or Big Pharma. Antibiotics and insulin have saved lives. There is no question about that. But now, responsibility must be taken by the AMA, Big Pharma, society, and the community for all the people that have died from the side effects of HIV/AIDS drugs. It makes me want to cry. All the needless suffering so some people could make huge profits, and have high paying jobs. It has also been another way to ostracize gay sex, and bring out internal homophobia again. A true epidemic does not exist only in one gender or sexual orientation. Injustice has been done mostly at the expense of the gay population. This issue of toxic meds needs to be addressed. I have many friends who have tested positive for HIV/AIDS and don't take the meds. Some of them are dissidents like me, some aren't. But they all tested positive, don't take the drugs, and are healthy.

It is impossible to ignore the fast growing dissident movement. It's international and includes thousands – positive people, doctors, scientists, allies. Our presence can no longer be ignored. I propose you give some "fair time" to the dissidents. I realize pharmaceutical advertisements help pay for your free paper but talk about dissidents and dissent theory once in a while. We're part of the queer population as well and we deserve to be heard.

Denise Jameson
San Francisco

Art and religion

Great art makes religions. Religions do not make great art, but lots of lost losers.

Tom Taran
San Francisco

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Why doesn't SF have gay bathhouses?

by Liz Highleyman

This week's headline from the past: April 1984 (21 years ago this month): San Francisco Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman prohibits sex in gay bathhouses.

The announcement in February 2005 of a case of highly drug-resistant HIV in New York City renewed a debate that began two decades earlier about gay civil liberties and AIDS prevention.

Bathhouses catering to men who have sex with men were widespread by the gay liberation heyday of the 1970s, and many men came to regard them as important centers of gay community and culture. Concern about the health implications of bathhouses intensified with the outbreak of AIDS. While some public health

officials and LGBT community members viewed baths and sex clubs as incubators of disease, others saw them as important sites for safer sex education. In addition, bathhouses were a vital part of the gay economy, and some feared their closure would also spur attempts to shutter bars where men cruised for sex.

By the beginning of 1984, attendance at San Francisco's bathhouses had already declined dramatically, and some had voluntarily gone out of business. *San Francisco Chronicle* journalist Randy Shilts began quoting medical experts and political leaders who suggested that bathhouses were linked to AIDS and should close. Larry Littlejohn, former president of the Society for Individual Rights, introduced a ballot

initiative prohibiting bathhouse sex. Littlejohn had urged San Francisco Department of Public Health director Mervyn Silverman to close the baths, but while Mayor Dianne Feinstein supported such a move, Silverman initially said doing so would be illegal and an invasion of privacy.

Littlejohn's announcement brought formerly private discussions into the public spotlight. Some branded him a traitor to the community, but he was not without support. Said activist Bill Kraus, it would be "increasingly difficult to tell straight politicians that there is a terrible crisis if we don't act like there is a crisis ourselves."

Amid the ensuing controversy, Silverman held a press conference on the issue, only to announce that he was delaying his decision. Two hundred activists – several clad in just towels – showed up to protest, some carrying signs reading "Today the Tubs, Tomorrow Your Bedroom" and "Out of the Tubs and into the Shrubs." At a second press conference on April 9, Silverman declared that "all sexual activity between individuals" – protected or unprotected – would be banned in public facilities where AIDS transmission "is likely to occur."

While a few sex establishments closed, most stayed open and defied Silverman's ban. Bathhouse owners formed the Adult Entertainment Association, which, in conjunction with AIDS educators and LGBT political groups, agreed on measures such as brighter lighting, free condoms, and stepped-up AIDS awareness campaigns.

Despite these initiatives – and death threats that led him to wear a bulletproof vest – Silverman kept up his efforts. On October 9, he issued a closure order for 14 sex businesses, likening them to "Russian roulette parlors." That night, a protest in the Castro drew 300 demonstrators, and by the next evening all but two of the businesses had reopened.

Silverman sued the recalcitrant venues, saying they "foster, promote, harbor, encourage, and derive profit from multiple sexual encounters." On November 28, Judge Roy Wonder issued an injunction that allowed the businesses to remain open as long as they eliminated private rooms, removed doors from booths, and employed monitors to watch for high-risk sexual activity.

The city's lawsuit formally ended in 1989 with a permanent injunction barring San Francisco's last traditional gay bathhouse

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Suggested reading

Shilts, Randy. 1987. *And the Band Played On: People, Politics, and the AIDS Epidemic* (St. Martin's Press).

Woods, William, and Diane Binson (eds.). 2003. *Gay Bathhouses and Public Health Policy* (Haworth).

Bayer, Ronald. 1989. *Private Acts, Social Consequences: AIDS and the Politics of Public Health* (Free Press).

Queers are doin' it for themselves

by Reese Aaron Isbell

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the 10th in a series of such columns.

Annie Lennox and Aretha Franklin would be quite proud of us right now. More importantly, we have every reason to be proud of ourselves. Our movement is coming together like never before, standing on our own two feet, and fighting for our rights with conviction, determination, and good ole fashioned moxie. The evidence abounds.

After an election year in which we were unfairly tainted as the reason Bush was re-elected and national Republicans made gains, we could have quietly backed down. And, frankly, it's pretty amazing we didn't. We had virtually everyone telling us our fights for marriage equality and for equal rights in general were turning off voters throughout the country. Even our friends were saying things like "too much, too soon," and that we needed to back off.

Instead, what did we do? Turns out, we told them that we'd only begun the fight!

Our LGBT community has



Alvarado Elementary School Principal David Weiner welcomes Assemblyman Mark Leno, right, Friday, April 15 and supporters of his bill to propose a 1 percent fee on artistic entertainment events and venues. The money raised, an estimated \$23 million, would be used to fund the California Arts Council.

been tirelessly at work since the election, much of which has been under the radar. But it is beginning to bear sweet public fruit of the kind we could only imagine even last year. And of which the rest of the country cannot even fathom.

Last weekend at the state Democratic convention in Los Angeles was a notable example. Due to the extraordinary work of our local LGBT leaders, the state Democratic Party now includes marriage equality in its official platform. This would not have happened had our community not stood up and fought for it, regardless of the political winds.

Modeled after Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco)

Assembly Bill 19, the resolution supporting civil marriage and religious freedom was the handiwork of local activist and the Democratic Party's Northern California LGBT Caucus Vice Chair **Debra Walker** who saw it through conception, drafting, finessing, politicking, endorsements, and final passage at the convention. Walker was not alone in this work, but she deserves special mention.

Other local LGBT leaders, including **Paul Hogan, Martha Knutzen, Robert Haaland, Scott Wiener, Rafael Mandelman, Michael Goldstein**, and many others were all over the convention hall dedicating their time at the

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Lesbian Muslim

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clamoring to have her self-publish the book so they could download it in private and relative security.

If not for September 11, 2001, Manji's book may never have seen the light of day. Prior to that horrible day, no publisher expressed any interest in it.

"Forget Americans, even Canadians would not have realized these issues affect us too," said Manji, who hosts a talk show called *The Big Idea*. "Only after 9/11 did publishers wake up and see these are important issues for all people, not just Muslims."

Manji lives in Toronto with her partner of seven years, Michelle Douglas. Douglas sued Canada's military after being kicked out in the late 1980s for being a lesbian. Her lawsuit led to the repeal of that country's ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military.

As her country's national political figures now debate making same-sex marriage legal, Manji said it is by no means a done deal. While Canadian court rulings have made such marriages legal in most of the country, the ruling Liberal Party's push to legalize gay marriages nationwide could be derailed by a political scandal now engulfing the prime minister and his party.

"It is a struggle," said Manji, who launched what she says was the world's first queer program on commercial television in 1998. "It is fascinating to think that our own government may be brought down on the basis of its support for same-sex marriages."

No matter the outcome, Manji said neither she nor Douglas is interested in getting married. Despite

their own views, Douglas is an adviser to the minister of justice and volunteer president of the Foundation for Equal Families, which has been pushing marriage equality.

As for American evangelicals fomenting opposition to the issue in Canada, Manji said it could work to the LGBT community's favor.

"I believe in people's right to engage in issues near and dear to their hearts," she said. "The fact they are being imported to Canada makes liberal Canadians even more angry and it could backfire on the evangelicals. I say, open the doors and let's see who taps into the views of Canadians."

Manji will travel to the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom in May to advise government officials about Islam and issues relevant to Muslims. In February she was in the West Bank speaking with gay and lesbian Palestinians, who she said are eagerly awaiting World Pride in Jerusalem this August. Many progressive queer groups have called for a boycott of the event, partly due to their opposition of Israeli policies toward Palestine.

But Manji said those LGBT people she met had a message for queer activists in North America.

"They are asking what do you want us to do? Wait to have it on our own neighborhood? Why should we wait to show they world that gay and lesbian Palestinians exist," she said. "They were more open minded and tolerant about working with Jews than are pro-Palestinian activists I have encountered in North America."

Manji claims that those she met asked her to let such activists to stop exploiting queer Palestinians.

"I was astounded by this. They were saying the best way to

achieve peace and a future is to work with Jews. They said if you are ready to help us work with Jews then we welcome your help. But if you only want to use us to fuel your passion plays then stop," said Manji. "In the name of fighting imperialism a lot of these activists are acting like imperialists. Their voices matter more than the victims on the ground."

It is that outspokenness that has detractors on both the right and the left criticizing Manji. Her appearances in the Bay Area this week drew criticism not only from Muslim students but also some queer Muslims who debated whether they should protest the center's decision for hosting Manji. While no protest occurred at the luncheon, few Muslims came to hear Manji speak.

Armen, a local college professor who asked that her last name not be used, is a member of the local Muslim group. While she said she is not 100 percent in support of Manji's views, she said more Muslim voices like hers are needed.

"Her call for reform whether in Islam or Middle Eastern cultures is right on," said Armen, who is of Armenian descent. "It brings tears to my eyes. We don't have many voices like hers."

But others counter Manji drowns out and fails to recognize other progressive Muslim voices, whether they be LGBT or straight. Jack Fertig, a member of the LGBT Muslim group Al-Fatiha, said Manji glosses over the work of such groups.

"She largely presented herself as the catalyst for reforming Islam. She makes no mention of others already doing this work," said Fertig. "Most groups see her as a loose cannon. She is not the lone voice she portrays herself to be." ▼

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Politics

◀ page 9

convention to our fight for equal rights. Additionally, my boss, Assemblyman Leno, reportedly was "on fire" at the convention, passing out his self-produced AB19 stickers, visiting every caucus, dinner, and meeting possible, and working the halls to ensure passage of not just the resolution, but also to win further support for AB19 itself in Sacramento.

Because of our standing tall, our straight allies have been given further reason to stand with us,



Brian Cheu

like never before. Local straight ally **David Chiu**, the chair of the Assembly District 13 delegation, championed the cause with gusto over the last several months locally and statewide via his many networks, and stood side by side with our LGBT leaders handing out AB19 stickers and spreading the marriage equality gospel.

Additionally, **Alice A. Huffman**, the president of the California chapter of the NAACP, marshaled the resolution through her networks at the convention. She previously has said, "In a place like California, you can not possibly work for rights if you don't work for gay rights. You either believe in the rights of everyone or you are in the wrong business." As such, the chair of the African American Caucus ended up publicly changing his position in favor of full marriage equality rather than his initial call for a civil unions-type

direction, citing the moving testimony from members of our LGBT community, in particular that of Assemblywoman **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles), as helping him make his ultimate decision in support.

As can be seen, this historic stand for marriage equality at the state convention did not come without a huge effort – from the frontline work mentioned above to the dedicated involvement of many others. In fact, local activist **Tom Brown** "came out of the closet," as it were, to show his support for the marriage equality resolution. Brown originally comes to us from the grassroots movement of the Howard Dean presidential campaign. As that generation of activists furthers the building blocks of the 2004 campaign, he created his own network of several hundred of these new Democratic members who identify themselves as grassroots and seek to reform the Democratic Party from within. Courageously, just before the convention, he wrote openly as a gay man to his fellow activists from around the state and asked their support for the Civil Marriage and Religious Freedom Resolution. Brown should be commended for his emerging role as an LGBT activist.

Robert Bernardo and **Andy Wong** also need to be commended. Last summer, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance produced a large, vibrant rally in the quiet Westside section of San Francisco entitled the "Summer of Love." Originally set to counter a previously held antigay rally, GAPA ended up showing the Westside, and particularly the larger Asian and Pacific Islander community, that marriage equality was strongly supported. Out of that event, members of GAPA, national Asian Equality, and others began forming an ad hoc group called San Francisco Asians for Marriage Equality. Convening in the Westside living room of activist **Clarence Wong**, this new formation of local LGBT API leaders, is organizing a historic event – the upcoming API Marriage Equality Roundtable. While this obviously focuses on marriage equality, it

will also more generally create an internal API dialogue for addressing LGBT people and our issues within the API community as a whole. Local API leaders and their respective non-LGBT-specific organizations (including **Phil Ting** of the Asian Law Caucus; **Brian Cheu** of the Chinese for Affirmative Action/Center for Asian American Advocacy; and **Gordon Mar** of the Chinese Progressive Association) are sponsoring the event and kudos should be given to them for their involvement.

Moreover, we owe an extra strong thank-you to our own LGBT community members who have stepped up to the plate within their particular communities to move us all forward. All of these are just a few examples of how our LGBT community members are taking it upon themselves to achieve marriage equality and equal rights regardless of what others may tell us are the political winds.

Our community began our own internal dialogue after the election. It still ripples throughout our national, state, and local movement. From those ripples, we've officially put the country, our friends, and even our own LGBT community on notice. We have no interest in backing down from our fight for equal rights and we're primed to go the distance. Furthermore, we're doin' it for ourselves. ▼

Reese Aaron Isbell, MPP, currently serves as the newsletter editor for the **Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club** and was recently hired as a staff member for Assemblyman **Mark Leno**. He can be reached online at www.reesesworld.com.

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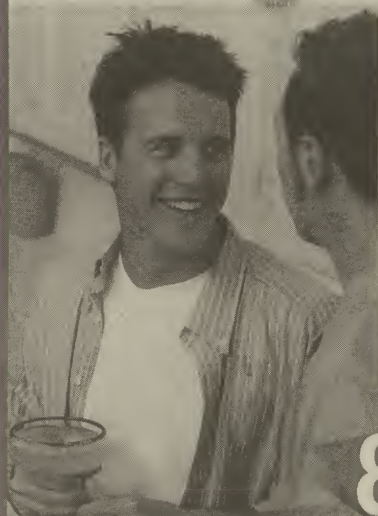
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Trader Joe's Castro store would impact traffic little, study says

by Matthew S. Bajko

A planned Trader Joe's Castro store at 15th, Sanchez, and Market streets would have little impact on traffic in the area, finds a traffic study commissioned by the company. In addition, the report also finds that a Castro location would help improve traffic conditions at the national grocer's store on Masonic Avenue.

Trader Joe's has proposed building a two-level parking structure for 48 cars above a nearly 11,000 square foot store at 2112

15th Street. The site is now home to the Dulux Paint Center. Entrance to the grocer's parking would be on 15th Street, and executives for the company have said without the parking they would not build the store.

Douglas Yokomizo, Trader Joe's vice president and legal counsel, could not be reached for comment this week. But in a brief telephone interview earlier this year, he said the company is committed to pursuing a Castro store. He would not comment on whether Trader Joe's was also eyeing the now-vacant Gap store on

Market Street as a possible location.

The traffic study, conducted by Pasadena-based Linscott Law and Greenspan Engineers, looked at only the paint store site in the Castro. The firm's planners took traffic counts at six intersections near the proposed store between 4 and 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 12. Due to the store's planned 9 a.m. opening hours, the firm did not take counts during the morning commute hours between 7 and 9 a.m.

Based on that data, the firm concluded that the store's impacts "are deemed to be less than significant based on the city/county significant traffic impact thresholds. The vehicular traffic contributed at the six study intersections related to the proposed Trader Joe's is not expected to cause a significant adverse change in operations at the locations."

The report points to the Castro District's higher residential density as "promoting a greater number of trips to the 15th Street store by walking, transit, and bicycle" than other Trader Joe's locations. As for parking, the study finds that the planned 48 spaces would exceed what planners predict will be a peak parking demand of approximately 42 spaces. In addition, six cars would be able to be queued up for parking spaces on the ramps leading to the parking lots, and "further preclude the potential for project-related vehicles" to be lined up on 15th Street, predict the planners.

The study concludes that the supply of parking proposed "is deemed to be adequate."

The traffic engineers also conducted traffic and parking counts at the Masonic location as well as at the company's new store in North Beach. The report stresses not only would a Castro site have little impact on traffic in the district but that neighbors of the Masonic site who have long complained about that store's traffic impacts would benefit from a new store roughly one mile south.

"A segment of the Trader Joe's patronage at the proposed 15th Street store is expected to be customers of the existing store on Masonic Avenue, thereby alleviating a portion of the traffic and parking demand at the current location," states the study, sent to Trader Joe's officials on January 26.

As for the Bay Street location in North Beach, whose lot has 48 spaces, the planners conclude that store's parking demands will be similar to the Castro store. Traffic counts were taken between 4 and 6 p.m. and parking lot usage observations between 2 and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16 and Wednesday, November 17 of 2004. The study found that the peak parking demand was 39 parking spaces with 118 trips during peak traffic time. The study says the findings confirm that forecasts of 42 parking spaces and 118 peak



Trader Joe's paid for a traffic study at a proposed site in the Castro; above, customers queue up at the store on Masonic Avenue.

hour trips at the Castro site "are reasonably conservative (i.e. 'worst cast')."

A copy of the study was provided to the Bay Area Reporter this week by District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty's office. Dufty said he plans to convene a meeting with leaders of Castro residential and merchant groups next week to discuss the findings. Dufty said he has yet to fully read the study and is still weighing whether he can support the project as proposed.

"People have at times challenged me and said I haven't taken a position. I really think it is important to listen to the neighborhood and see all the input there is to see if there is some road to consensus. That consensus may be we cannot have a store in the Castro but I kind of feel I need to let the process unfold," said Dufty. "No question - this is a real challenge. There is no easy solution here. People will be disappointed if we can't have a Trader Joe's and there are a number of people who see it not working."

Dufty did indicate that he has concerns about the store's impact on traffic in the area, despite the study.

"It is tough for me to see how it would work. It is tough for me to see that and the burden is on Trader Joe's to demonstrate that," said Dufty, who added that he plans to meet with the city's Department of Parking and Traffic to go over the traffic study. "This traffic study needs to be translated and vetted."

Leaders surprised

News of the study has surprised community leaders, many of whom had believed that Trader Joe's executives had given up on building a store at the Castro site after residents and local merchants voiced opposition to their plans during community meetings last May and June. One of the key issues at the time was what impact the store would have on traffic patterns.

Adam Hagen, president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, said his group was under the assumption that Trader Joe's was no longer interested in the Castro location and had decided to look elsewhere for a store. He said



EVPA President Adam Hagen

EVPA's membership is closely divided on whether or not to support the store's opening.

"It is new news to me. In light of the new traffic study EVPA would be interested in revisiting the topic based on this new data. We are encouraged by these findings and look forward to continuing the discussion," said Hagen, who is personally in favor of seeing Trader Joe's come into the Castro.

Jimmer Cassiol, the mayor's newly appointed representative for District 8, said he was also surprised to hear of the traffic study.

"I love Trader Joe's. I just don't know if that area is the right place to put it," said Cassiol, who lives near Dolores Park. "I don't drive, I take Muni, so I would love to have a Trader Joe's close by. But you know, I am doing fine without it."

Greg Wilcox, president of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, also was caught off guard by news of the traffic study.

"I am really surprised Trader Joe's is continuing on with it. It came up at our board meeting last night. People asked what is going on and I said I think it is dead," said Wilcox. "The neighborhood from both Duboce Triangle and Buena Vista to a T everyone said we don't want it because parking would be terrible. It is not that we don't love Trader Joe's, it is just a bad location for it."

Other grocers in the area have been vehemently opposed to seeing Trader Joe's move into the Castro. Gilles Desaulniers, owner

page 22 ►

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Lesbian candidate lags in Oakland race

by Matthew S. Bajko

Out lesbian Peggy Moore is facing an uphill battle to win her bid to replace Danny Wan, Oakland's first out gay politician, on the City Council. With eight candidates left in the race, Moore is at the bottom of the pack in terms of endorsements and money raised for the race.

Voters in Oakland's District 2, which includes the Grand-Lake and Chinatown districts, have until Tuesday, May 17 to cast ballots in the special mail-in election to fill the vacant seat. Wan announced in January he would resign in order to take a better paying job with the Port of Oakland. Financial pressures due to caring for his elderly parents influenced Wan's decision not to serve his full term.

Moore's campaign appears to have gained little traction with voters in the district. Her Web site lists only one endorser, the East Bay Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, and she came in dead last in terms of money raised for her race. According to a report in the *Oakland Tribune*, she had only raised \$5,900 with \$3,200 of the total in public matching funds.

But Moore said those are not the only ways to measure a campaign.

"Do we have more money than anybody else? No. But all of us are feeling very good," said Moore. "I feel we are still in the race."

Her performance at public forums with the other candidates left an impression that she was not up to speed on the issues affecting the district. Moore counters that she is not the "sound bite queen" and not afraid to say she doesn't have answers to all the issues.

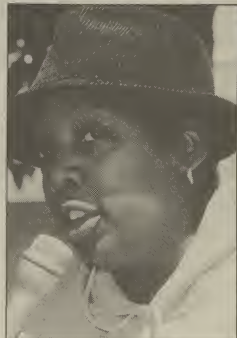
"You have to be willing to learn about the issues," she said.

While gay issues originally looked to be a major factor in the race, other ideas have gained more attention. In particular, some have ridiculed Moore's desire to bring a professional women's basketball team to Oakland as a risky financial move.

Yet Moore insists that "I think it would be great for Oakland to have a WNBA team," and that a team could make money.

In recent weeks two of her opponents, Green Party candidate Aimee Allison and Oakland school board member David Kakishiba, have sent out breathless press releases touting their growing list of endorsers and promising poll results.

Kakishiba has the support of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, the Sierra Club, former council candidate Pamela Drake, and the Oakland Education Association. He also has backing from Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland); state Assemblywoman Wilma Chan (D-Oakland); Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates; San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi; and San Francisco Board of Edu-

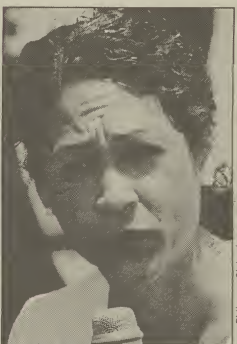


Candidate Peggy Moore

cation President Eric Mar.

"I am humbled by this outpouring of support," said Kakishiba. "It is a real boost to my campaign and to me personally to have Supervisor Carson, Pamela Drake, environmentalists, and educators in my corner."

Drake, who withdrew from the District 2 City Council race last week, said she is supporting Kakishiba's candidacy because "he has worked with youth, immigrants, families living in the flats, and those who have traditionally received the least attention in City Hall. He understands the root causes of many of our problems. I believe that David can bring our diverse communities together with our help. I urge my supporters to vote for him."

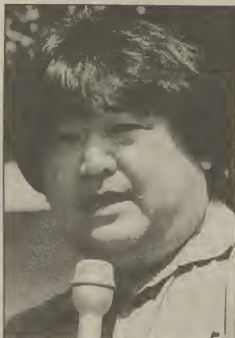


Candidate Aimee Allison

Allison's releases tout her "insurgent campaign" and claim polling shows she is a top contender. She also has the backing of the Sierra Club and the OEA, which both made dual endorsements in the race.

"The race has essentially come down to a contest between three candidates, Aimee Allison, David Kakishiba and Pat Kernighan," said Wilson Riles Jr., former city council member. "I think pundits will be surprised come election day if they ignore Aimee's campaign."

Citing financial records that Kernighan - Wan's chief of staff who hopes to take over her former boss's seat - has spent \$5,000 on



Candidate David Kakishiba

polling, Allison's campaign has questioned why she has not released any poll results. She has suggested that the poll shows the race is much closer than Kernighan had hoped.

Since Wan's announcement, Kernighan has been viewed as the likely winner, with backing from Wan, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and council President Ignacio De La Fuente. But Allison points to an ongoing *Oakland Post* poll that shows her with 53 percent support among District 2 residents, Kakishiba at 42 percent, and Kernighan trailing far behind at 3 percent.

"I believe the reason so many people are drawn to our campaign is that we are viewed as City Hall outsiders who are not controlled by any vested interest," said Allison. "I think when the votes are counted we are going to surprise a lot of the so-called experts."

Kernighan said Allison's charges are "total nonsense" and that in fact the money was spent on persuasion calls asking people to vote for her.

"I am feeling really curious," she said. "It is getting pretty lively here with nasty and untrue allegations. I am feeling good, but this is a horse race."

Kernighan had raised \$86,000 with \$25,500 in personal savings; Kakishiba raised about \$33,000; Justin Horner, who is chief of staff to Vice Mayor Jane Brunner, raised about \$22,000; and bank executive Paul Garrison, who has refused to answer questions regarding his sexual orientation, raised more than \$26,000, the *Tribune* reported earlier this month.

The paper reported that both Horner and Kakishiba loaned their campaigns \$4,800 and received about \$5,100 in matching funds from the city. The story also noted that Allison, a member of the Green Party, raised about \$19,500, including \$5,100 in public matching funds; Shirley Gee, known for organizing Dragon boat races on Lake Merritt, raised about \$8,500 with a loan to her campaign of \$5,000; and Todd Plate, a consultant for nonprofit children's groups, raised \$6,000, including a personal loan of about \$2,800. ▼

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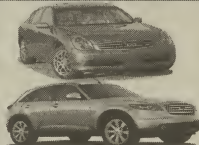


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Jane Phomm, Cleland

Under One Roof's new executive director, Mike Marshall, left, congratulates Deana Dawn, recipient of the Supportive Being Award, and Gary Virginia, who received the Foundation Award at the agency's second annual gala, "Heavenly Bodies," held Tuesday, April 19 in the Green Room at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Actor Robin Williams and his wife Marsha were also honored, but were unable to attend so KRON-TV personality Jan Wahl accepted on their behalf. The event raised about \$50,000.

Marriage film

◀ page 1

We didn't quit," said Callan, who recently added footage to the film from the March 14 court decision in favor of gay marriage. That decision is expected to be appealed and ultimately the state Supreme Court likely will rule on the issue. "We're really psyched," said Shaw, speaking from his production booth earlier this week. The film will run about 82 minutes now that the additional footage of the recent court ruling has been added. "Obviously when we got the good news we wanted to end the film on an up note."



Courtesy Geoff Callan

Filmmaker and mayoral brother-in-law Geoff Callan

Shaw, like Callan and the other men involved in the project, is heterosexual, and sees the project as giving him a way to stand up for what he believes.

"As filmmakers, it's one of the most unselfish things we've ever done," said Shaw. "We were all born and raised in the city, and we get it. And we've never felt so good about doing anything. I'm excited to expand people's mind about this whole thing. And it feels great being heterosexual, and African American, and doing it. As Americans we've got to be loving on our own people."

The filmmakers see the project as "a conduit," said Shaw, "for people to have a better understanding of who these people are and what was really going on."

Fraser, who has been working with Shaw and Callan for about three years, said the project "really captures what happened to the entire city during that time."

Fraser got the call from Shaw and Callan to join them in shooting on February 12 and the men often had three cameras running at any given time, whether following the personal stories of particular couples, or documenting the chaos of the impending court injunctions. "All these stories come together and now we have this piece that can really change people's minds. Regardless of how you feel about the issue it's a

chance to spend time with people you ordinarily wouldn't."

Newsom, who has seen a rough cut of the film, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the movie opened his eyes to the variety of personal stories behind the marriages. Shortly after his executive decision to issue the same-sex marriage licenses, Newsom made it a point to retreat into the background so that the public focus would be on the couples.

"I never really experienced what everyone else experienced in terms

of the ceremonies, so for me it's an insight into the human side of this," said Newsom. "It was extraordinary for me to watch it from a human perspective, to see families and people's lives. I'm proud of those guys. I think they did a great job."

Pursuit of Equality will be shown one time only while the filmmakers search for a distributor. To purchase tickets, visit www.siff.org, or call (925) 866-9559. For more information, visit www.pursuitofequality.com. ▼

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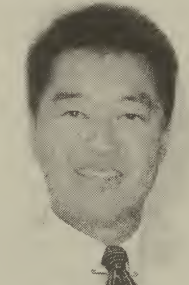
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LYRIC seeks new director, hosts confab

by Zak Szymanski

Kar Yin Tham, executive director of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, will step down from her position as of July 8, the organization announced Tuesday, April 19.

Tham, 31, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her reasons for leaving were personal.

"I really felt like I needed to focus on my personal life at this point. I have no real work plans right now, and am looking to take some time off," she said.

Tham began her tenure at LYRIC in September 2002, and almost immediately had to navigate reductions in funding and staff as a result of government and foundation cuts. But she is credited with strengthening the agency's role in the LGBT community despite the obstacles, increasing the number of youth participants to 2,000 locally and 10,000 nationally, and working with Castro area residents and merchants to ease some of the tensions that occurred in recent years between LGBT youth and adults.

"I think we developed better relationships with both the neighbors and the merchants," said Tham. "I think part of it is just getting the word out there about what LYRIC does, letting people know we're more than a hang-out space. We also got a better under-



LYRIC's Kar Yin Tham

standing of the needs of area neighbors and merchants."

With a budget of \$1.2 million and a staff of 17 full and part time employees, LYRIC's mission is to build community and offer education enhancement, career training, health promotion, and leadership development to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth and friends and families. The organization offers a youth hotline, an after-school drop-in program, one-on-one academic advising, resume and job search assistance, wellness services, an Asian Pacific Islander family project, and a magazine project produced by LGBTQ youth in conjunction with local LGBTQ journalists.

LYRIC also hosts an annual LGBTQ youth conference, scheduled to take place this Saturday,

April 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street, in San Francisco. The event, entitled "Unchained," is free of charge and open to queer youth and allies of all backgrounds.

For Tham, helping to define the organization's leading role in the community is one of her key achievements, and she said she plans to continue to support the work of the agency after her departure.

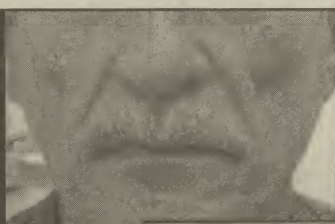
"LYRIC is a really special place. I love it. It's something I will continue to support. The organization is so unique in our community and we're flourishing even with the cuts. It's a good time for a new executive director to take over," she said.

Tham "was a critical change agent who led us through extensive strategic planning and helped reinvigorate LYRIC," said Jordan Green, co-chair of LYRIC's board.

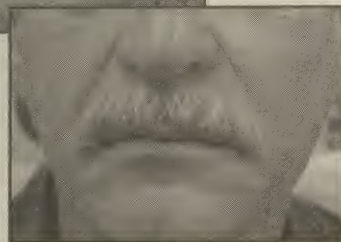
An executive transition team consisting of staff and board members will manage the transition and conduct a national search for Tham's replacement. The next executive director should have fundraising and management skills, dedication to LGBTQ youth, as well as a commitment to maintaining LYRIC's place as a leader in the community, said Tham.

Interested applicants should visit www.lyric.org for the full job description. The application deadline is May 9. More information about the LGBTQ youth conference can also be found online. ▼

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The marriage war

Battles escalate on several fronts

by Lisa Keen

It's hard to say who's winning, because the marriage war has erupted on so many fronts with such disparate results. But it's easy to see that, once again, the battles have escalated across the country.

In Connecticut, the state House of Representatives and Senate passed legislation last week to give equal benefits to gay couples through civil unions. After the state Senate accepts a house amendment Wednesday, the bill is expected to be signed into law by a governor who was, until very late in the game, threatening a veto.

Also last week, the Oregon Supreme Court nullified 3,000 same-sex marriages in Portland, saying the county that issued the licenses had no authority to expand the reach of state marriage laws.

Massachusetts held hearings this month on several same-sex marriage bills and, just weeks away from the one-year anniversary of the state issuing legal marriage licenses to same-sex couples, it's still anybody's guess as to whether a proposed constitutional ban has a chance to reach voters in 2006.

And in Maine, gay activists are marshalling supporters to turn out for pro-gay marriage hearings triggered by an antigay legislator. The task is made even more difficult by the need to fend off a referendum on the state's newly passed nondiscrimination bill.

Oregon

The clearest loss for gay civil rights supporters this month was suffered in Oregon April 14, when the state's highest court nullified the marriage licenses of 3,000 same-sex couples. The licenses had been issued in early 2004 by Multnomah County, at the direction of the county's elected governing commission. But the governor directed the state registrar not to record the marriages, and the controversy quickly moved to the courtroom. Meanwhile, in November, voters passed a statewide constitutional amendment to recognize only those marriages between one man and one woman.

In invalidating the same-sex marriages licensed in Portland, the Oregon Supreme Court said that, while Multnomah County officials were "entitled to have their doubts about the constitutionality of limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples," marriage was, nonetheless, a matter of statewide, not local, concern. In a ruling that echoed that by the California Supreme Court in invalidating San Francisco marriages, the Oregon court said the county had no authority to extend the reach of the law. And, according to the seven-member bench, state law limited marriage to heterosexual couples even before the adoption of the constitutional ban.

Interestingly, the same Oregon governor who instructed the registrar not to record the Portland marriages also called this month for the Legislature to pass civil union legislation. Just one day before the state Supreme Court ruling, Governor Ted Kulongoski (D) said he and a bipartisan group of state senators were introducing legislation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and to



Governor M. Jodi Rell

provide legal protections for same-sex relationships through civil unions.

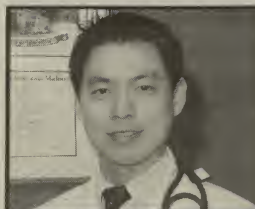
Connecticut

On the other side of the country, the Connecticut Legislature,

too, was rallying to ensure that same-sex couples had at least some of the benefits of marriage by passing legislation that would enable such couples to obtain civil unions. Connecticut is poised this week to become the second Legislature in the country to approve civil unions for same-sex relationships—five years behind Vermont. But it will be the first to do so without being mandated by the state Supreme Court, as was the case in Vermont.

While this was a major advance forward in some respects, it was an uneasy victory in others, some activists said. The discomfort for many comes from the recognition that civil unions are still a separate entity from marriage and that, in approving civil unions, the bill explicitly bans marriage licenses to same-sex couples. That, said activists who are pressing a same-sex marriage case in the Connecticut courts, treats gay couples un-

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www.sfplasticsurgery.comPAWS in the doghouse
over lack of dog-walkers

by Kevin Davis

Fresh off a successful fundraiser, the service agency for companion animals of disabled city residents, Pets Are Wonderful Support, currently has 100 dog-walking shifts to fill and has had to deny such services to several clients.

One of those clients, Frank Jackson, a Twin Peaks resident who is HIV-positive, registered with PAWS six weeks ago and appealed for PAWS assistance "desperately" on April 1 after his mobility was "seriously and negatively impacted" by avascular necrosis, his hip joints degenerating due to dying blood vessels.

"They told me two weeks, maybe three," said Jackson who turned 56 last week. "That was a month and a half ago."

Jackson, on disability for the past three years, is also weak with adrenal deficiency. He has lost 48 pounds in the last month due to wasting, and is vulnerable to opportunistic infections. His cholesterol level and triglycerides have risen, a side effect of protease inhibitors.

"My triglycerides are off the chart," said Jackson. "I've been lucky until now."

"I'm not trying to start a furor," added Jackson, active with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for 23 years, including a seven-year stint on the board and three years as executive director. "I literally cannot walk my dog."

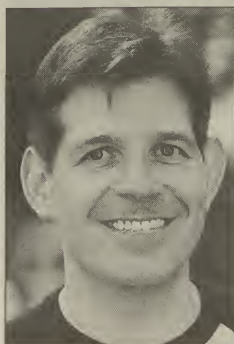
"If we had no sheet music, we couldn't do our job," said Jackson, referring to his time managing the chorus. "It's like a car dealership with no cars."

Jackson alleges that one and a half years ago when he attended a PAWS volunteer orientation, the volunteer coordinator told the group not to ask for dog-walking positions because, "we've got them running out of our ears." He decided not to volunteer.

Eight months later Jackson adopted his black cocker spaniel, Topper, from a rescue agency.

PAWS outreach and volunteer coordinator, Daniel Marlay, and Executive Director John Lipp imagine the dialogue at the training session occurred slightly differently.

"What we tell people at orientations is that dog-walking is the most popular volunteer task, but



PAWS Exec. Director John Lipp

we ask people not to limit their scope of volunteering specifically to dog-walking," Marlay replied to Jackson by e-mail.

Pet food delivery, transports to vets, administrative work, and fundraising are other tasks in need of helping hands.

"The message was, we have a whole bunch of needs: Meals, transportation, help with running the office," said Lipp.

"I am currently facing an insurmountable list of clients who need help with dog-walking," continued Marlay. "Had I a long database of volunteers waiting for a dog-walking opportunity, I would gladly spare them. The needs way outnumber the volunteers."

If a dog needs to relieve itself twice per day, that equals 14 person-hours per week – usually 14 different volunteers, unless they take on more than one shift.

Marlay assigns each volunteer to visit a client's home every week at a particular time.

Lipp said he could not discuss Jackson's dilemma specifically, due to the agency's client confidentiality policy, but confirmed that the agency is currently trying to fill 100 dog-walking shifts. Only around 50 of the 150 open shifts are currently filled.

While requesting Jackson's patience but not promising a time frame, Marlay told him, "Perhaps you will actually be able to get some volunteer support quicker than others," as PAWS volunteers are concentrated in the Castro, Noe Valley, and Mission districts. No volunteers live in the Crocker-Amazon Park area where three clients have been waiting for two

years for full dog-walking teams.

There is no waiting for the pet food bank delivery and vet transport services.

"The way we try to match people, volunteers tend to want to work close to home," said Lipp, adding that the agency does not prioritize based on economic need, treating all their low-income clients equally.

"However, in order to fill up a team like yours, it will take a long time," Marlay told Jackson.

Like Jackson, most clients use PAWS as a supplement to the help of friends and neighbors.

"I've been fortunate," said Jackson. "But, I feel like I'm abusing my friends."

In the second decade of the AIDS epidemic, is an apathetic LGBT community not as willing to step up and assist service groups that help PWAs?

Not according to Lipp, who said most PAWS volunteers are motivated by animal welfare, transcending HIV, although PWAs still make up 75 percent of the PAWS caseload. The agency expanded services a few years ago to those with other illnesses.

"Volunteers certainly understand the human-animal bond," said Lipp. "The HIV factor is secondary. My guess is it should mean more volunteers if we send a good message at recruitment, the broader base of needs should mean a broader base of support."

PAWS has been in the news lately. Earlier this month it was named organizational grand marshal of the upcoming Pride Parade and also netted about \$110,000 at its successful Petchitecture benefit.

"Exactly what the heck are they doing with the hundreds (millions?) of dollars they have to account for each year?" wondered Jackson in an e-mail message.

The PAWS team last recruited volunteers at the Ferry Building April 2 and will next solicit support on May 14.

"We have more than just financial needs," said Lipp. "We forget about that." ▼

Prospective volunteers can call Daniel Marlay at (415) 241-1473. PAWS offers two orientations per month, one weekend day and one weeknight.

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BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

Pope

◀ page 1

turbing comments regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people so his selection as the 265th pope is distressing."

Sam Sinnett, the president of the national Dignity USA, an organization of gay Catholics, took a more optimistic view.

"We are certainly praying for him," Sinnett told the B.A.R. "He reflects the conservative mold. We are hopeful that the Holy Spirit was involved in his selection."

Sinnett said that he took it as a positive sign that Ratzinger selected Benedict as his name because the previous Pope Benedict, who served during World War I, was known for his liberal outlook.

"He has chosen a name linked to a more moderate view," Sinnett said. "I don't see him as being more antigay [than Pope John Paul II]. To be honest, that would be hard to do. There are no pro-GLBT voices among the cardinals."

Gino Ramos, co-chair of Dignity/San Francisco, reached Tuesday morning, told the B.A.R. "My heart thumped" when he heard the news.

"He is as conservative as one can get," Ramos said. "The church is going backwards now. I feel so bad for Catholics. I feel a mistake was made by the cardinals."

Asked if he thought the selection of Ratzinger [Benedict XVI]

would usher in a new conservative movement within the Catholic Church, Ramos said "yes."

"For some reason, there is a wind of change in the Catholic Church," he added.

Ramos said that Dignity needs to do more and be more outspoken in this country.

"We really need to wake up the cardinals in the U.S.," he said.

Ramos is Catholic and attends weekly masses held by Dignity in San Francisco.

1986 letter

Ratzinger authored the 1986 letter to the bishops of the Catholic Church entitled "Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons." Ratzinger wrote: "Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder. Therefore, special concern and pastoral attention should be directed toward those who have this condition, lest they be led to believe that the living out of this orientation in homosexual activity is a morally acceptable option. It is not. There can be no doubt of the moral judgment made there against homosexual relations."

While condemning antigay violence, Ratzinger wrote: "But the proper reaction to crimes committed against homosexual persons should not be to claim that

the homosexual condition is not disordered. When such a claim is made and when homosexual activity is consequently condoned, or when civil legislation is introduced to protect behavior to which no one has any conceivable right, neither the church nor society at large should be surprised when other distorted notions and practices gain ground, and irrational and violent reactions increase."

The chair of the Liturgy Committee for Dignity/San Francisco, Paul Rioski, told the B.A.R. that Ratzinger's letter was the main focus of discussion during Dignity's convention in Miami in 1987. The organization took a strong stance against that letter and the San Francisco chapter was subsequently asked to leave Saint Boniface Catholic Church where the group held its Sunday Mass. Rioski said Dignity San Francisco's final service at St. Boniface was held just before Christmas in 1988 and the organization has since met in Protestant churches.

When asked about the concern of LGBT activists, the former head of the Vatican Press Office, Father Larry Lorenzoni, told the B.A.R. that Ratzinger's age, 78, is an indication that the cardinals didn't see him as a longtime head of the church.

"Don't worry too much about this," Lorenzoni said. "To tell you the truth, I think they elected him as an interim pope." ▼

Mabel Teng

◀ page 1

way everybody came together—city employees, volunteers, couples, community members—all with the one goal to work through and process and allow as many couples to get married during that brief period of time as possible," said Tao. "[Teng] actually pulled that all together and communicated with everyone, and I think it was one of her best and proudest moments."

Many noted that as a heterosexual Chinese American woman, Teng played a significant role in building bridges between different minority communities when it came to issues of LGBT equality.

"I do feel that as a leader in the Chinese American community she has displayed a level of courage which is difficult for non-Chinese LGBT people to understand," said openly gay Supervisor Bevan Dufty. "Unless you can communicate in Mandarin or Cantonese you're probably unaware that there are five Chinese language daily newspapers and a

whole community of activity around almost one-third of San Francisco. It's a hidden story that we don't have access to, and how her leadership has moved the Chinese community is something she should be credited for."

Teng's outspoken leadership on gay marriage cost her some Chinese clergy support, said Tao, who added that Teng's work with organizations like Gay Asian Pacific Alliance has allowed respectful dialogue between the Chinese and gay communities to continue.

"Mabel Teng has been a staunch supporter of GAPA and the whole LGBT community and she will be missed," said Joseph Mendoza, GAPA co-chair. "Her selflessness and dedication toward human rights, augmented with her humble resilience in bringing same-sex marriage to the forefront of today's touch-button issues, is the epitome of a wonderful human being."

Cristy Chung, who along with her partner Nancy Woo is a part of the lawsuit against the state of California challenging its gay marriage ban, said that Teng's accom-

plishments will be lasting.

"It's so important for Asian American leaders to stand up for our community and embrace our families," said Chung. "She has been such a great supporter of our community, and I trust that those bridges have been built, and she'll continue to support us. It's sad that she won't be in that particular role anymore but I'm sure she'll still be a part of it in her own way."

Teng emphasized that she would not disappear from the fight for LGBT equality.

"I absolutely will continue to be an advocate. I will continue to involve myself with civil rights and equality and gay rights as a private citizen, and perhaps I could even be louder," said Teng.

"During the last 10 years in my political career, including my time on the Board of Supervisors, I do feel that one of my most significant contributions was to have bridged the gay community and the Asian community," she said. "I would like to tell the community how much I've appreciated the opportunity to represent them. It's really an honor." ▼

Bathhouses

◀ page 8

from reopening. By this time, however, a new type of sex club had emerged that lacked private rooms but allowed low-risk sexual activity in public areas. In 1990, a group of sex-party hosts came together to form the Coalition for Healthy Sex, which evolved into an organization of sex-business owners, AIDS prevention educators, and city health officials.

In 1996, gay city Supervisor Tom Ammiano proposed legislation that would, for the first time, license commercial sex venues and institute more consistent regulation and enforcement. Based on a set of standards developed by the CHS—and similar to the rules imposed by Judge Wonder—the proposal stipulated that unprotected anal and vaginal sex and fisting

(but not intercourse with condoms or oral sex) were prohibited and that rooms must be accessible and adequately lit to allow monitoring.

When the press got wind of the proposal, the old debate from the 1980s erupted anew. The *San Francisco Examiner* called for the closure of all sex clubs, while some gay men demanded the return of traditional bathhouses with private rooms. In a turnabout of Littlejohn's 1984 move, activist Michael Petrelis proposed a ballot initiative to reopen the baths, declaring, "Gay men do not need more governmental interference in our sex lives." Although the controversy led Mayor Willie Brown to withdraw his support for Ammiano's measure, the health department adopted the CHS standards as official policy. Several LGBT and AIDS groups opposed the regulations, but new Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz

stood firm.

Over the years, other cities took different approaches to regulating sex businesses. New York City, for example, allowed private rooms but banned sex in common public areas. Despite these differing policies, research generally shows that rates of bathhouse attendance and high-risk sexual activity remain similar in various cities, and that men who do not attend commercial venues tend to have similarly risky sex elsewhere. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. In the 1990s, she covered the San Francisco bathhouse debate for the Bay Area Reporter. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Defrocked lesbian minister appeals

by Jason Victor Serinus

The Reverend Beth Stroud is preparing for the appeal of the December 2, 2004 decision by a Methodist Court that stripped her of ministerial credentials. The appeal is scheduled for Thursday, April 28.

Stroud, the former associate pastor and current lay minister of Philadelphia's First United Methodist Church of Germantown, was charged with violating Paragraph 2702.1(b) of the 2000 Methodist Book of Discipline by living as "a self-avowed practicing homosexual in a monogamous, committed relationship ... while in the ordained ministry."

Retired Bishop Joseph Yeakey, who presided over the two-day trial last year, refused to allow Stroud's defense to cite a March 2004 Methodist decision that found open lesbian minister the Reverend Karen Dammann of Seattle not guilty of engaging in "practices incompatible with Christian teachings." Nor did he grant Stroud the opportunity to challenge the Methodist rulebook on the grounds that it violates the Christian principles of the Bible and the constitution of the United Methodist Church.

Yeakey also specifically excluded people from the jury pool who, for matters of conscience, felt they couldn't abide by provisions in the Book of Discipline that bar lesbians and gay men from serving as ordained clergy.

Denied the grounds on which to fully make her case, Stroud, 34, was defrocked by a narrow 7-6 vote. The trial, which made national news, was also publicized in a lengthy PBS documentary that focused on the many challenges facing Stroud's liberal congregation.

"I believe that the provisions of the Discipline that were cited in the charge are superseded by others that say that the Methodist Church abhors discrimination of all kinds and calls upon us to be inclusive of all peoples," said Stroud. "Our discipline says that gay and lesbian people are people of sacred worth in the eyes of God."

The appeal is not of the verdict itself, but rather of the decisions of law and the way the initial trial was conducted.

"The most important issue is the responsibility of the trial court," said Stroud. "Was it to look at the one narrow paragraph of UMC law that says that self-avowed practicing homosexuals cannot be ordained, or did they have a responsibility to look at my actions in light of the whole of church law?"

"I feel they needed to wrestle with the contradiction between the paragraph under which I was charged, the church constitution, and the biblical tradition taken as a whole."

If the church appeals court rules in Stroud's favor, it may send the case back for a new trial. The appeals court could also change or reduce her penalty, or throw it out entirely.

Reached less than two weeks before her appeal, Stroud recently reflected on the four months she has spent since losing her ministerial credentials.

"This is going to sound very



Beth Stroud addresses the media following her conviction in Dec. 2004

strange - I feel at peace," she said.

"I am angry and frustrated about the church law, and frustrated that my ministry is open to scrutiny and questioning in the way that other people's ministry is not. But at the same time, I continue to feel that there is power to create change in people."

Since the verdict, Stroud has received far more invitations to speak than she's been able to accept. Her priorities have been to connect with high school and college people whenever possible, and to speak in environments where people have not made up their minds.

In January, Stroud preached at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., and later spoke to a gathering of reconciling United Methodists. She has addressed students at a Philadelphia high school, her college alma mater Bryn Mawr, seminaries, and the high school that many members of her church youth group attend. She has also preached at Yale Divinity School and the Princeton University Chapel.

"It's incredible to me that I get invited to talk about being a lesbian Christian minister," she said. "I find that I am valuing my relationships within the UMC more and not less, even with people who disagree with me. My colleagues' perspectives and feelings on homosexuality are not necessarily as simple and as black and white as I thought they were."

One of Stroud's most meaningful exchanges involved a pastor who approached her after the trial with tears in his eyes.

"I am confused as hell about homosexuality," he said, "and I don't know what to think about it. I wish God would write the answer in the sky for me to see. But I

can see you're a person of character and I've learned a lot from you this week. Maybe sometime, if you'd be willing, we could have a conversation."

The two met six weeks after the trial to share a meal.

"I discovered more common ground than I would have expected," said Stroud. "I really developed respect for what he struggles with as a pastor of a large church in a very conservative county. As a minister who sees some ambiguities where others see black and white, he finds it difficult to communicate subtleties to people who look for hard conservative black and white answers."

"Time and time again, I've experienced healing in relationships that was so profound, for me it transcended the pain of the trial and the verdict. I'm not saying the trial and the verdict weren't painful - they were. They were wrong, and they hurt. Yet there is also a much larger context of grace."

Because Stroud understands that the church is not an organization of people who are always right, she did not feel a huge sense of betrayal when the verdict was announced.

"The church has been wrong before, for example about the shape of the earth and about slavery. The church will be wrong again, because the church is made up of human beings, and for us, being wrong is built in."

Regardless of the outcome of her appeal, Stroud is certain that her path has been correct.

"Going through this process feels like the right thing for me to be doing. It continues to create new possibilities for people to understand and learn that I could not have accomplished any other way." ▼

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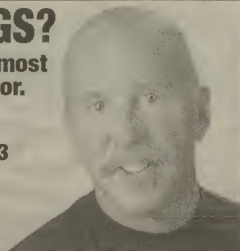
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BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

Looking at jocks

by Jim Provenzano

What is it about the athletic body that fascinates so many people? Since the dawn of athletics, nudity has played a part in competition and training, as well as the representation of the athletic body through art. But in American athletics — officially, at least — nudity is the last thing fans can expect.

Even the relatively innocuous 2004 Olympics received complaints about the content and implied (although not actual) nudity of the Opening Ceremonies in Athens.

While Janet Jackson's exposed breast at last year's Super Bowl halftime show may have gotten more than its share of deserved attention, for gay men who thrill at the sight of a naked male athlete, that same Super Bowl's postgame locker room interviews led to a series of secretly taken camera phone images of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady partially and fully nude. The images quickly spread through the hundreds of sports-related male nudity Yahoo Groups.

While the privacy of athletes and the apparently strong desire of fans to see athletes naked takes on voyeuristic tendencies in America, in most European countries — and others like Brazil, Thailand, and Australia — attitudes are more relaxed. Pro athletes, for example, pose tastefully nude in giant billboards selling running shoes.

The French rugby team Stade France has posed nude for team calendars, a book, and DVDs with increasing levels of nudity. Many of Australia's Olympic athletes have posed nude for three successive photo books published by, among others, *Blue* magazine.

Other individual athletes — like soccer stars Tulio Maravilha, Bruno Carvalho, Dinei, and most recently, Alexandre Gauchon — have posed in the explicitly erotic Brazilian magazine *G* with no qualms about their bodies being admired by a mostly gay male audience. Most posed while active as competitive athletes, often on playing fields and in locker rooms.

Occasionally, American male athletes have posed nude. In the 1970s, *Playgirl* magazine featured former NFL stars John Matuzak and Jim Brown, as well as soccer player Shep Messing.

One former college gymnast who bared all in the pages of a recent issue of *Playgirl* magazine is Matthew Abboud. The son of Lebanese and Swedish parents, Abboud started in gymnastics at age 3. "I was an energetic, spazzy kid, always bouncing around on the furniture," said Abboud. "My mom put me in a nice, safe area in the gym with my older sister. I got all my energy out. I don't remember my life without gymnastics."

Active in the sport up through



Gymnast-model Matt Abboud in his *Playgirl* spread

high school, Abboud made the junior national team in 1997, competing in international championships for the next few years, and earned a full athletic scholarship at Penn State.

While finishing a degree in international business, Abboud went to Rome for further study. Overcoming a gymnastics injury (a torn meniscus), he took up modeling, and after one shoot for L.L. Bean, his agent called with a job from *Playgirl*. Then off-season from gymnastics, and not in the NCAA program, he was still identified in *Playgirl* as a gymnast, although he didn't use his real name.

"I knew this was gonna be a huge shock to my family and friends," said Abboud, "but it would get me exposure and help my modeling career."

Abboud said he understands the sort of fan infatuation he receives. He occasionally corresponds on a Yahoo Group devoted to him; the membership is almost exclusively men. "Being an athlete and focusing so much on your body and how it works, I think athletes should be able to portray that, whether to show it off or appreciate it. They're the model of what the human body should be."

But when news of his posing nude reached the athletics administration at Penn State, an investigation was undertaken to try to remove Abboud from the athletics program, despite his having posed after gymnastics season was over.

Abboud endured an interrogation process. "They did a background check, called the manager of *Playgirl*; they had to have documents proving when I posed. But because I was not an athlete at the time, there was no violation against my scholarship."

Yet having been a part of the team that won the Big Ten men's gymnastics national championship, Abboud was due a championship ring. Despite having heard from teammates (who knew of his posing in *Playgirl*, and shared some jokes about it), his former coach and the Penn State athletics department decided to revoke his ring.

"Yes, it's just a ring, but that's not the whole point. I just feel wronged," said Abboud. "I just wanted to leave on good terms, and have some closure. What happens if another athlete does this? Where do you draw the line? I did contribute strongly to that team."

Abboud mentioned the many years when Penn State sorority girls posed nude in *Playboy*, and that the university's administration made no complaints with women posing nude.

As for male nudity, "It's not accepted [in America], but it should be," said Abboud. "There's nothing wrong with it. In Europe, it's widely accepted and appreciated."

Although he says he won't be posing fully nude again any time soon, "I don't have any regrets."

Despite having displayed his body with pride, Abboud prefers to keep his romantic life private. He agrees that there is a stigma about male gymnasts being perceived as gay. "A lot of gymnasts are attractive, good-looking guys with muscles," he said. "Girls come up and ask, 'Are you gay?' You have to legitimize [yourself] first."

In mentioning other athletes he knows who are gay, he sees some difficulties they face, clothed or not. As for posing nude, they'll have to make their own decisions, or do it outside the United States. ▼

More athletes get lots of exposure at
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Trader Joe's

◀ page 12

of Harvest Market, has expressed concerns, as have the owners of Golden Produce on Church Street, who are set to open a new wine shop and meat and fish mart later this year.

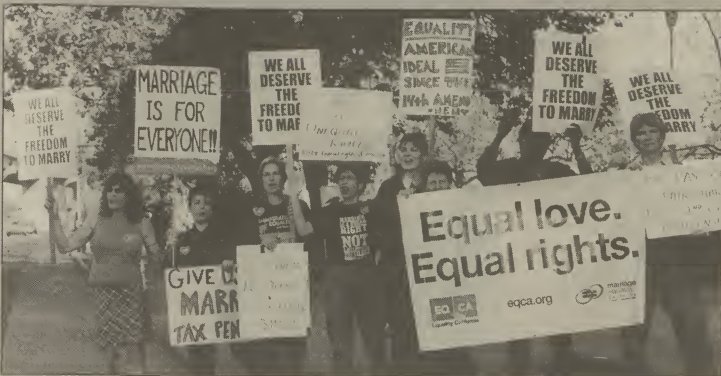
Duffy, who supported Golden

Produce's liquor license application and expansion plans, also could find his desire to bring the same type of business to the heart of the Castro derailed if Trader Joe's opens. Since being elected to his supervisor seat Duffy has pushed to see a butcher and fresh fish shop open in the Castro. Most recently he has talked to the owner of the now vacant elec-

tronic store on Market Street near Castro about bringing in a market modeled on Rockridge's Market Hall next to the BART station there.

"For me the vision is for someone to get off Muni, walk across the street, pick up some fresh salmon, asparagus, a baguette and a bottle of wine and walk home," said Duffy. ▼

Protesting Uncle Sam



A small but spirited group of marriage equality activists greeted last-minute tax filers at the main Oakland post office Friday, April 15. The group, a contingent from Equality California and Marriage Equality California, wanted to bring attention to inequities in the tax code for same-sex couples, who cannot file joint tax returns. Similar demonstrations took place in San Francisco and elsewhere in the state.

Gay liaison

◀ page 4

A member of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, Plan C, and Equality California, Cassiol should be a familiar face to the LGBT community. He was Mr. March 1998 in the Bare Chest Calendar and continues to volunteer with the AIDS Emergency Fund. He has volunteered as a board member for the Eureka Valley Promotion Association and served as the only renter on the board of the Small Property Owners of San Francisco.

As part of his new job, Cassiol will represent the mayor at numerous community meetings, such as the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, which he attended this month. Issues he said will be priorities include same-sex marriage; addressing charges from people of color that they feel unwelcome in the Castro; supporting the LGBT Community Center's continued growth; and assisting with the GLBT Historical Society's desire to relocate its archives and museum to a renovated Castro branch library building on 16th Street.

"I am a big fan of the historical society and I think it would be

awesome if they did relocate," he said.

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy praised Cassiol as someone who has proved his talent and dedication since joining MONS. He added that he hopes Cassiol can bring together both LGBT people in the Newsom administration and in public office to share ideas and jointly work on issues important to the gay community.

"I think Jimmer can really lead that effort. I welcome his involvement in the diverse range of LGBT issues that are so important to our city. I know the community will find him to be welcoming, responsive, and hard working," said Duffy. "Unquestionably, Mayor Newsom is a tremendous advocate but having a strong staff person working for the community can help make sure that we draw good candidates for appointments to city commissions, get the mayor to important community events and ensure that any initiatives important to the community are addressed."

A third generation San Franciscan and a member of the Middle Eastern community, Homsey received his bachelor of arts in political science from San Francisco

State University and is a graduate from the California Culinary Academy. He is the son of renowned San Franciscan Architect George Homsey and Kay Wells, a San Francisco school-teacher for over 15 years, as well as a volunteer librarian for the last five years.

Homsey has led many of the mayor's new initiatives including Art@MONS, a program that celebrates the creativity of the city's diverse communities by bringing art into City Hall; SF Find Online Resources Engine, a tool that helps constituents find local services and agencies in the community; and Phoenix Garden Project, which empowers residents in Sunnydale to take back their environment by designing and planting their own gardens.

"I'm honored that the mayor would appoint me to lead one of the most constituent focused departments in City Hall," said Homsey in a statement. "As a native San Franciscan, I am committed to working closely with all of the many great communities throughout the county, to not only address the day to day challenges they face, but also partner with them to proactively improve their quality of life." ▼

Marriage war

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equality.

"The Legislature hasn't ended discrimination," said Gary Buseck, legal director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders about the Connecticut Legislature's actions. "Civil unions are still a separate and inferior status," he said, and do not resolve the constitutional inequities raised in GLAD's lawsuit.

Connecticut state Representative Mike Lawlor (D), one of the bill's chief sponsors, agrees in principle, but legally, he said, "in the eyes of the state, there is no difference between marriage and civil unions."

And in reality, he adds, "the votes aren't there for marriage, but they are there for civil unions." Opposing civil unions because they are not marriage, he said, "would be like not supporting the Emancipation Proclamation because it didn't include voting rights."

Lawlor said the bill would almost certainly pass the Senate Wednesday afternoon and be signed by Governor M. Jodi Rell (R), who has now pledged pub-

licly to do so. The law would take effect October 1.

Asked about a provision of the bill that seems to allow the state to recognize same-sex relationships legalized in other jurisdictions, Lawlor said there is "no clear answer" as to whether Connecticut would recognize Massachusetts marriages, except to treat them as civil unions.

Massachusetts

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, where GLAD won the landmark case that led to the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples beginning last May, hearings were held on several marriage-related bills, including a bill that seeks to invalidate more than 4,000 same-sex marriages licensed thus far in Massachusetts. The Legislature is expected to soon take up a proposed constitutional amendment to ban marriage and establish civil unions for same-sex couples. The proposal passed the Legislature last year but must pass again this year before it can go to voters for approval, in November 2006.

In Maine, activists are now gearing up for hearings, too — hearings prompted by pro-gay marriage legislation introduced by a virulently antigay legislator.

National

On the national level, a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held another in a series of hearings of witnesses testifying against same-sex marriage April 13. Republicans are hoping to use the hearings to rally support for a bill to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

"They're continuing to grind the meat up for their troops," said Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry Coalition, "but I think it's pretty clear the assault on the federal Constitution is not moving."

The real fight for gays right now, he said, is in defending state constitutions. Eighteen states, thus far, have approved constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage.

"We have to be vigilant against the federal attack — either by constitution or statutes," said Wolfson, "but we really need to put our effort into repelling these state attacks. We need to be seeing this as a long-term campaign in which we don't win every battle, but every battle is a chance to advance a larger message that moves the public along in understanding us." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

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Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Immigrant Rights Commission

Seat 9 and seat 10, must be an immigrant to the United States who is appointed in accordance with Section 4.101 of the Charter; members shall have a degree of college education and an interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 6, 2006.

Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Board

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STATEMENT FILE A-0283831-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Marsh And Associates, 2134 Green St. Apt. 3 San Francisco, Ca. 94123-4761. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Vincent Marsh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/18/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/18/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284049-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frisco Fog Gift Shop, 1240 Geneva Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Arturo Espindola Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/28/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284031-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Greenlight Collective, 990 Oak St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Bogart McAvoy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/28/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: www.TheMississippis.com, The Mission Works, 2 Henry Adams St. Suite M18 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Myles Garber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/22/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/23/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284001-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: MP Investment Group, 915 Golden Gate Ave. Apt. #K San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tanchia Vernon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/25/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284002-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Capital T Investments, 915 Golden Gate Ave. Apt. #K San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tanchia Vernon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/25/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283449-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hung Nguyen Gardener Service, 9998 45th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Hung Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/4/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/4/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283614-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CAV, 1666 Market St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Tadd Cortell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/10/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541940

In the matter of the application of Kian-Chai Golk, KC Golk for change of name. The application of Kian-Chai Golk, KC Golk for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kian-Chai Golk, KC Golk has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Casey Golk. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 31st day of May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0247593

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Rug Wrestlers located at 1240 Geneva #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Arturo Espindola Jr. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284199-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vietnam Too Restaurant, 701 Larkin St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Katie Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/01/05. APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283829-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1,T,B,G,L Photo Album Memories, 2)Transgender, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Photo Album Memories, 220 Pierce St. #8 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Felicia A. Elizondo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/18/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/18/05. APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284172-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mission Bartlett Garage, 3255 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Jose R. Fregoso. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/05. APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

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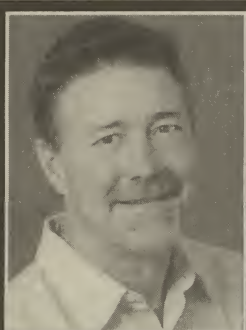
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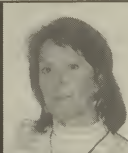
LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0283906-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Markus Lobl Fitness, 1505 Northpoint
San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Markus
S. Lobl. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 3/22/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/22/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283953-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: ATRI Press, 66 Cleary Ct. #503 San
Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Mark V.
Rose. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/23/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

**STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL
FROM PARTNERSHIP OPERATING
UNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME: #0280737**
The following person(s) has withdrawn
from partnership operating under the fic-
titious business name known as 1.)California
Choppers 2.)Frisco Customs 3.)Choppers
USA 4.)USA Choppers, located at 1490
Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94013:
Name of person(s) withdrawing from part-
nership Raul Villaseor. This statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

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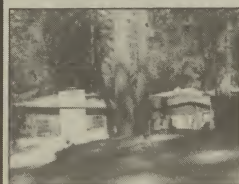


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LEGAL NOTICES

**CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS #305**
Dear Potential Applicant: The City and
County of San Francisco Human Services
Agency (HSA) is seeking a contractor to
provide respite services to support families with
children at-risk of child abuse and/or neglect
by providing time for families to meet other
responsibilities, by decreasing parental stress,
and assisting in the care of children in urgent
situations. Respite is part of an array of ser-
vices and resources to support the care of at
risk children. Included in this contract is
provision of temporary and voluntary in-
home and out of home respite services. This
contract primarily serves referrals from Fam-
ily and Children's Services, of the Human
Services Agency.
The term for the contract will be July 1,
2005 through June 30, 2008. The Depart-
ment/HSA reserves the right to renew con-
tracts with winning bidders selected through
this solicitation for additional years based
upon the availability of funding and the per-
formance of the selected contractors.
An RFQ packet may be picked up at
SFDHS, Office of Contract Management,
1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after
April 15, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30
AM to 5 PM.
The RFQ packet and subsequent updates
may be downloaded from the City's website
on or after April 15, 2005. Go to:
HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF
and click on the "Consultants and Profes-
sional Services" link.
The deadline for submitting response pack-
ets is May 16, 2005, 3:00 PM. No Exceptions

STATEMENT FILE A-0284448-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Mission Thrift, 2330 Mission St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Werner
Werwie. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 9/25/98.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/11/05.
APRIL 14, 21, 28, MAY 5 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284307-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Mediation and Law Offices of Jason H.
Stein, Esq., 225 Bush St., 16th Floor, San
Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Jason
Stein. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 4/6/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/6/05.
APRIL 14, 21, 28, MAY 5 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284364-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Peter Young Support Fund, 740A 14th St.
#237 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This busi-
ness is conducted by a corporation, signed
Andrea Lindsay. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
4/6/05. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/7/05.
APRIL 14, 21, 28, MAY 5 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284424-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: 1.)Frisco California Choppers, 2.)Frisco
Leathers, 1490 Howard St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by
a general partnership, signed Ronald Aiello.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on N/A. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 4/11/05.
APRIL 14, 21, 28, MAY 5 2005

**CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #307**
Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking a
contractor for the provision of respite care
for families with children at-risk of abuse or
neglect. The Agency expects to select one
contractor through this RFP to offer both
on-going and emergency in-home and out-
of-home respite services. The respite pro-
gram provides parents with the opportunity
to complete Family and Children's Services
(FCS) service requirements or other parental
duties that might otherwise be delayed due
to lack of temporary childcare. Respite ser-
vices are intended to decrease parental stress
and support families. Respite is part of an
array of services and resources to support the
care of at-risk children. This contract pri-
marily serves referrals from the FCS division
of the Human Services Agency.
The contracting period for the contracts will
be July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. The
contract may be extended beyond the term
at the sole option of the agency based upon
available funding and departmental needs.
An RFP packet may be picked up at
SFDHS, Office of Contract Management,
1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after
April 15, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30
AM to 5 PM.
The RFP packet and subsequent updates
may be downloaded from the City's website
on or after April 15, 2005. Go to:
HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF
and click on the "Consultants and Profes-
sional Services" link.
The deadline for submitting response packets is
Monday, May 16, 2005 3 PM. No Exceptions

STATEMENT FILE A-0284591-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Michael A. Rhea Photography, 1090
Eddy St. Apt. 306 San Francisco, Ca.
94109. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Michael A. Rhea. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 4/14/05. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284531-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Bakou De Trai, 400 Valencia St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an in-
dividual, signed Vena Shrivleyaranta. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business under
the above listed fictitious business name or names
on N/A. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

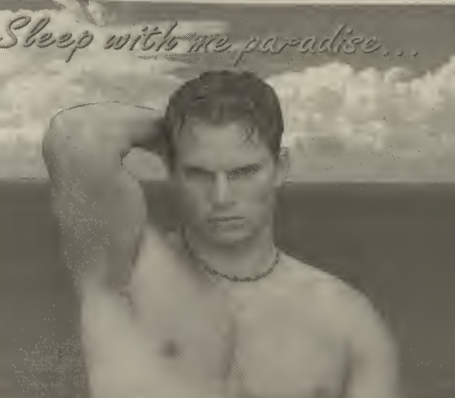
STATEMENT FILE A-0284493-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Rentals nSF, 1318 Hayes St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Jackie
Tom. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
4/13/05. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284491-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Coming Out Productions, 186 Common-
wealth Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94118.
This business is conducted by an individual,
signed Richard Kemp. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
N/A. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
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FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE # CNC 05541967

In the matter of the application of Yuen
Wang Yu for change of name. The applica-
tion of Yuen Wang Yu for change of name
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Yuen Wang Yu
has filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to Peter Wang
Yu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Room 218
on the 9th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of
said day to show cause why the application
for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 21, 28 MAY 5, 12 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE # CNC 05541984

In the matter of the application of Chi
Wang Yu for change of name. The applica-
tion of Chi Wang Yu for change of name
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Chi Wang Yu
has filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to John Yu. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all
persons interested in said matter do ap-
pear before this Court in Room 218 on the
16th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 21, 28 MAY 5, 12 2005

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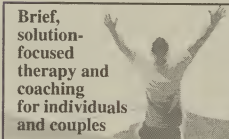
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NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE # CMC 05541811
In the matter of the application of Deborah
Anne Marchi-Friel for change of name. The

application of Deborah Anne Marchi-Friel
for change of name having been filed in
Court, and it appearing from said applica-
tion that Deborah Anne Marchi-Friel has
filed an application proposing that his/her
name be changed to Vanessa Deborah
Marchi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Room 218 on
the 24th day of May, 2005 at 9:00 am of
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APRIL 14, 21, 28, MAY 5 2005

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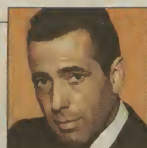
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Bound and gagged, and loving it
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the fetish photography of Rick Castro.
page 43

SF is played by SF
'Reel San Francisco' in its
second week at the Balboa.
page 37



Lesbians for laughs
'Casual Encounters' are
one-act plays at Rhino.
page 32



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 16 • 21 April 2005

Don't cry for us, Argentina, *et al.*



Adrian Suarez is Pin Boy.

World views in San Francisco International Film Festival, week one

by David Lamble

This 48th San Francisco International Film Festival plays in four venues, April 21-May 5: our lovely Castro movie palace, the Kabuki 8 Theatres, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, and the Aquarius in San Jose. This year's offerings include a moveable feast of film treasures from Argentina, the burgeoning heart of Spanish-speaking film; a return of master filmmakers Francois Ozon, Todd Solondz, Agnes Varda and Constantine Costa-Gavras; and a profusion of comedy with a dark side. Luminaries honored include

director Taylor Hackford (*The Idolmaker*), actor Joan Allen (*Yes*), screenwriter-turned-director Paul Haggis (*Crash*) and veteran film programmer Anita Monga.

Pin Boy Ana Poliak's detailed portrait of a young man's initiation into the Argentine working class begins with an incredibly erotic doctor's exam. Adrian (lovely Adrian Suarez) sits nude and loose-limbed on a doctor's table. Poliak holds on this medium full-body shot as if in unconscious homage to the spellbinding stillness of the

fixed-camera takes by Taiwan master Tsai Ming-Liang. The camera sits still as Adrian fidgets, becoming obsessed with his own feet. After three minutes, the unseen doctor begins his exam. The camera is close on Adrian as, in a non-exploitive but sensual way, the doctor checks out each limb. He explains the hard use those now-lovely limbs may be put to if Adrian persists in pursuing his insanely dangerous and low-paying job.

Then a visually witty detour into the film's real sub-

page 40 ►



Harpsichordist with heart Christophe Rousset pours out vintage Bach suites

by Tim Pfaff

It's heartening that in this new Golden Age of the Baroque, there is a Golden Boy, and that he's gay.

When Christophe Rousset got his career break 22 years ago, at the age of 22, no one — surely he himself included — could have imagined the extent to which Baroque music would colonize today's concert halls and opera houses. It was a bit like the Sinology students of a decade ago who seemed like bespectacled antiquarians learning an impossible, impractical tongue, almost in defiance of the sexy, fast-paced technology boom going on around them, who now are negotiating the multimillion-dollar car deals in Shanghai over 22-year-old bottles of unblended Scotch.

Rousset's latest recording, of Bach French Suites (Ambrosie), brilliantly bal-

ances the Bach solo-harpsichord excursion he began last year with his recording of the English Suites on the same instrument (a 17th- or 18th-century Ruckers restored in 1787) in the same place, the resonant Music of Art and History in France's Neuchatel. Now that he has gone on to much larger musical enterprises with his peerless Les Talens Lyriques — if he could sing (and I'm not sure he can't) and learn a sampler and synthesizer, he might be able to record a Handel opera by himself — it's always gratifying to hear him play solo on the instrument that brought him to fame.

His star shone so brilliantly from the start that it's honestly hard to talk about his maturation as a musician. The Martha Argerich of the harpsichord, he does seem somehow more remarkable every time you hear him, yet you can go back to earlier recordings with no diminished sense of

page 45 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Going gaily into the mountains

Lesbians & gays in Yosemite National Park? Grin & bear it.

by Roberto Friedman

Last week found Out There high-tailing it out of town, headed for the High Sierras as part of Yosemite's first-ever press trip geared to gay and lesbian media. It's the primero time any of us can remember a National Park doing lavender outreach, so OT was truly honored to be among the small cadre of gay scribes who converged from San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles, in search of natural beauty in the best gay way.

Our sturdy rental car tackled the steep climb of Old Priest's Grade as we made our ascent into the park. In fast succession we had our first sightings of deer, coyote, snow on the ground from just days before. Half Dome and El Capitan, at elevation 3,500 ft., never fail to impress.

Awaiting us was Yosemite's grand hotel The Ahwahnee, which famously served as posh quarters for presidents and royalty before us queens. It also served as a model for the great lodge in Kubrick's horror classic *The Shining*. You may recall its elevator doors opening to torrents of blood; we did. "Come play with us, Danny."

Feeling butch from the fresh air and high altitude, we hiked a waterfall with a robust young guide from the Yosemite Mountaineering School. Feeling aesthetic, we followed a photographer from the Ansel Adams Center to vistas Adams and Carleton E. Watkins immortalized. Some people want to go back to nature; OT wants to go back to the hotel.

In the Ahwahnee's immense kitchen, executive chef Terry Sheehan prepared us a soup from cheddar cheese and Sierra Nevada pale ale, after his own recipe. He'd whipped up the soup for the live audience of the *Today* show only the week before. Dinner in the

hotel's dining room was somewhat more elegant.

There were over 1,300 bear break-ins of vehicles last year, so food left in cars merits stiff fines "for stupidity." The most legendary recent "bear incident" occurred when an ursine invader got into a van parked at the Ahwahnee and consumed an entire, three-tier wedding cake. Nuptials interrupted.

Q: Are the snack-filled vending machines among the tourist amenities certifiably bear-proof? A: Yes, at least until the beasts learn how to make change.

Loving the Great Outdoors in gay-friendly environs was easy. Park rangers wear hot uniforms. Why not a Gay Day at Yosemite? Editors from glossy national mags and community newspapers agreed: We're so ready. Read all about it on YosemitePark.Com.

Urban renewal

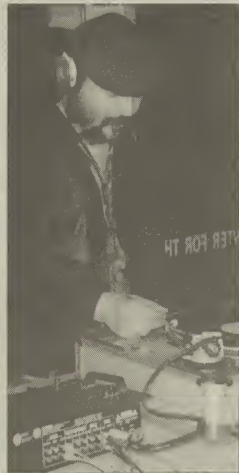
Back in the city, nothing had slowed down. Our bartender at the opening party for three new exhibitions at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts thanked us for our tip and said he'd use it to buy duct tape, but we don't think he meant for homeland security.

The new art shows in YBCA galleries (through June 26) include *Visual Aid at Sixteen* with David Cannon Dashiell's *Queer Mysteries*, celebrating the nonprofit's 16 years of supporting professional Bay Area artists challenged by life-threatening illnesses. We were able to revisit some favorite work by Visual Aid artists Elliott Linwood, Jim Winters and Michael Johnstone, who was making the scene at the opening in full, colorful regalia.

Walking into the gallery that houses Dashiell's 28-panel painting *Queer Mysteries* was truly a step back into queer time. We interviewed Dashiell for *Artweek* on the occasion of the *Mysteries*' un-

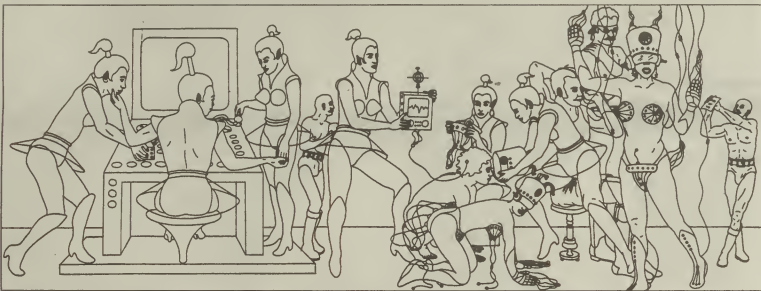


Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls, highest waterfall in North America.



DJ Bus Station John at YBCA.

Willpower, with DJ Bus Station John of Tubesteak Connection fame spinning tunes between sets. YBCA's Grand Lobby is great for people-watching, but less great, acoustically, for music-making. Why wasn't the Forum, a natural dance-party space, open for business? More at ybca.org.



Detail from *Study for Queer Mysteries*, by David Cannon Dashiell, 1993, ink on acetate, 16.5" x 238"

veiling at San Francisco Art Institute's Walter/Bean Galleries, before the artist's untimely death

from AIDS complications in 1993. *Queer Mysteries*' vermillion-red background evokes the original colors of the Pompeian wall-frescoes, and the groupings of figures, absorbed in some arcane queer cultic rituals — some involving electrodes and probes — are based on the figures in those famous murals in tragic Pompeii.

The opening night festivities included major queer music from Moth Wranglers and Hey

End notes

• Best correction of the week from *The New York Times* concerned the wrong choice of word "in a passage from a special Mass celebrated in Italian for the Pope by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the vicar of Rome. He said the pope was 'already united with our sole Savior' — not 'soul Savior.'" Also, for his last meal, the pope said,

next page ►

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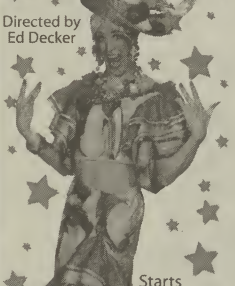


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Viva Anita Monga!

Former Castro programmer wins SFIFF's Mel Novikoff award

by David Lamble

What do you do after you've been mistress of the temple?

Anita Monga recalls her perfect Castro Theatre moment.

"For me, it was extraordinary to be the host of the 70mm restoration of *Verrigo*. That was what I consider to be the pinnacle of the perfect San Francisco theater, for the perfect San Francisco film, just blocks away from Carlotta's grave."

On Saturday, April 23, Anita Monga will receive the best award they hand out at the San Francisco International Film Festival, The Mel Novikoff Award, named for the late impresario of the Castro Theatre, the man who restored the movie palace to its proper place as cultural nexus for a neighborhood and the best repertory cinema in the nation. A film she selected for the occasion, French director Jacques Becker's classic film noir *Touchez Pas au Grisbi*, will screen after an onstage conversation with Monga at the Palace of Fine Arts (3301 Lyon St. at Bay).

A Stockton native, Monga arrived in the Bay Area in the '70s. She recalls how thrilling it was to hang out with a crowd of young people and drink in the cultural currents swirling around a city that was then on the cutting edge of several artistic fields. A part-time job at the Roxie led to a peripatetic career at the heart of the then-burgeoning repertory cinema world. There were up to two dozen screens running across the city at its zenith. Monga recalls the odd circumstances back in 1987 when she assumed control of programming at the Castro.

"I actually didn't have a relationship with Mel Novikoff. Of course, I knew Mel Novikoff, but at the end of Mel's life, he was dying. Surf Theatres asked my boss at Renaissance-Rialto Theatres for help programming a 'last Castro calendar.' Then they asked me to program another last Castro calendar. When Blumenthal Theatres took over the theatre, they were really happy with how the Castro was going and asked me to come on with them." Monga adds that she's still completely baffled at how her relationship with Castro owner Ted Nasser ended. Monga's dismissal rocked Bay Area film circles, and has resulted in much speculation about both the future of the Castro and the centrality of queer programming at the theatre.

Monga explains that it was Novikoff's vision in the '70s to acquire the lease for what was then a failing neighborhood theater. "I look back at Mel's schedules, and there were series devoted to the women of Hollywood. He was a Francophile, so there were lots of French films. It was a time when there were lots of rep houses in



"I was determined that the Castro would show the best of cinema."

the Bay Area. Mel would do these three-month-long calendars, with wonderful daily film programs. At the same time, the Castro started hosting film festivals."

Castro character

Monga cut her film-programming teeth at the Roxie, the York and the Pagoda Palace in North Beach. "It's my firm belief that every theater has its own character, and I was itching to be able to program what I felt to be the Castro's character because it really dovetailed with my own, which included a lot of classic American films which weren't particularly successful at the other theatres."

At the time, the film exhibition market was being roiled by home video, the demise of small repertory theaters, and the rise of specialty film fare like the New Queer Cinema wave of the mid-'80s to early '90s.

"Mel was far too patrician ever to book a John Waters film, and I felt that this edgy playfulness was definitely in the character of the theater. I feel I honored Mel's vision, but of course, the vision evolved as things changed. It's no longer possible to do the brilliantly successful MGM musical series that could go for two weeks."

Monga notes that one of the reasons she developed the theater's fabled widescreen series was "to highlight the most amazing thing that the Castro can do. At least once a year, I sought out the most beautiful prints I could find in the widescreen format."

"We were showing new prints of *Mademoiselle* and *Viva Maria!* and things that people had kind of forgotten about. It's an extraordinary feeling to be in the presence of a 35mm print on a huge screen. I was really devoted to giving people the experience of, for instance, showing *The Man with the Movie Camera*, a silent film that somebody may have seen in their college class in a hideous 16mm print with hokey music. But to experience it seeing a beautiful 35mm

restored print with live musical accompaniment is like seeing the film for the first time. It's the difference between seeing a postcard of a great work of art and confronting the original."

Gay zeitgeist

Monga says that one of her great sources of pride was the Castro's ability to showcase queer film. "Of course, anybody who had a gay title came to the Castro first. There was this moment in the zeitgeist when gay film became the new wave. People saw that gay titles could bring in quite a bit of money. Then it was no longer easy to get the good gay titles for us, because they were claimed by the big art chains. We had to fight to get the 'A' titles, and I was determined that the Castro would show the best of cinema and not be the resting place of any hackneyed piece of film that came down the pike. I never wanted to underestimate the audience's taste, and that requires a strong curatorial voice."

One of the great frustrations at the Castro was adapting a movie palace constructed in 1922 to the sound revolution of the Dolby era. "I think that the Castro has great sound now. It's always striking a balance between maintaining the integrity of the building and the ornamentation inside and the technical stuff. Auditoriums being built now are essentially acoustically dead boxes. Dolby has been so good to the Castro for years, coming in and working with the sound and giving advice. The problem was the difficulty of understanding dialogue, and I think we were able to do a pretty good job in fixing it."

Her greatest thrill was conjuring up the thematic double-bills that could play on in a moviegoer's head for years. Monga says the challenge became greater over the years as the cost of prints became prohibitive. In some cases, certain film treasures were no longer available at any price. "It's

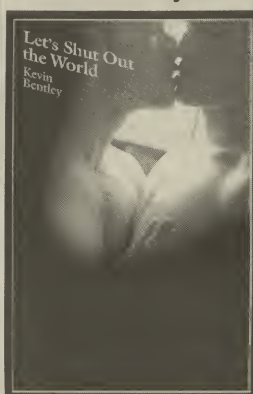
pretty difficult to fill a calendar right now. When you see the Pacific Film Archive do a complete series of a director's work, that means they're culling prints from around the world, from the rarest of sources, and paying extraordinary amounts of money for the rights."

"I used to show Ivan Passer's *Cutter's Way* with Karel Reisz' *Who'll Stop the Rain*. There's a lovely weaving of styles, themes

and even the autobiographies of the directors. Also, I used to program what I called the most cynical double-bill on the face of the Earth. If you didn't feel like killing yourself after this one: Billy Wilder's *Ace in the Hole* and Alexander Mackendrick's *Sweet Smell of Success* were pretty corrosive. I kid about wanting to kill yourself, because, after seeing those two magnificent films, you feel like walking on air." ▼

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Out There

◀ previous page

"I'll have the sole, man" — not "I'm a Soul Man!"

In his *NYT Book Review* sizing up of James R. Gaines' *Evening in the Palace of Reason - Bach Meets Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment*, Edmund Morris coolly notes that today the latter might be known

as Frederick the Gay — "Frenchified in language, dress and deportment, art-loving, flute-playing, pompadoured, fixated on his mother — in short, and in his father's eyes, more of a queen than a king in the making."

The de-lovely, de-lightful *Strange de Jim* writes into de column: "Dear de Roberto, What a blessing that *Escorts for the Elderly* has been saved! I'm told they even arrive at your door with

a free Viagra. Only in San Francisco. Love, Strange."

Strange is currently applying for an agricultural subsidy, hoping that the federal government will pay him to grow less corn.

Senior escorts (looking for sugar babies?) of the Hebraic persuasion must be happy to hear the news that vitamin Viagra has been certified as kosher for Passover. Holy Macabee with a four-hour erection! ▼

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"Only a few minutes into the show, I was won over, smiling, clapping, hooting and reveling in this longtime San Francisco phenomenon. This is not, it turns out, a unique reaction. 'It's almost surreal watching people get switched on by the show,' says Chronicle critic Steven Winn, who has seen the show a dozen times. The last time he went, he, too, had somewhat low expectations. But just like everyone else, he became caught up in its goofy spirit. 'It doesn't matter what kind of mood people are in, how many times they've seen the show or what sort of resistance they've built up in advance,' he says. 'The show connects with people and makes them happy.' Want more proof? David Wiegand, the assistant arts and entertainment editor, somehow managed to avoid seeing it for eight years. 'The deep secret I harbored was that I was quietly dismissing it as 'for tourists,' the theater equivalent of a cable car ride or a day trip to the Wharf,' says Wiegand. 'Well, lo and behold, when I went to 'BBB' earlier this year for the first time, I not only had a ball but found it more than holds its own as a solid theater piece. It's an astounding array of acting talent...and remind everyone in the Bay Area that it's a theatrical treasure to be enjoyed over and over again.'"

—San Francisco Chronicle

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Fresh-caught lesbians

'Casual Encounters' plays Rhino Studio

by Richard Dodds

The funniest moment in *Casual Encounters*, the collective title for two new one-act comedies at Theatre Rhino, provides a brief look into the theater's play-selection process.

As the star of her own play, Rhino staffer Karole Langlois breaks character to explain how she came to write *Take Me for a Ride ... cute girl!*. She was sitting in a meeting with "three fags trying to figure out what lesbians want to see" when one of the gay men suggested a play about lesbian couples having babies. In exasperated response, she wrote a play about lesbians trying to get laid without a U-Haul trailer waiting in the wings.

Short, stout, covered in tattoos, and topped with a turquoise Mohawk, Langlois is a familiar figure in the Rhino box office. But this self-described semi-butche version of Poppin' Fresh is a happy surprise as both a writer and a performer. She works the stage in the Rhino Studio with confidence, and her flair for comedy can be both broad and subtle.

Conceding that her looks don't match traditional definitions of beauty, Langlois tells of her various efforts to make herself more "fuckable," and then depicts a series of funny (to us) encounters that never go quite the way she hopes. Kathy Rentschler, Natalie Miner, and Heather O'Brien play the women in her life, and wryly illuminate their various peccadilloes.

O'Brien and Rentschler also appear in the opening one-act as



Gina (Heather O'Brien), Sandy (Kathy Rentschler) in *Coming Out Blonde*.

seemingly mismatched lesbians on their first date. In Maureen Bogues' *Coming Out Blonde*, after an Internet courtship, the brassy Gina (O'Brien) and the bookish Sandy (Rentschler) try to find common ground despite their contrasting personalities.

Everything Gina says seems to frighten Sandy, whether it's quoting a line from a Hitchcock movie or showing off her newly long fingernails. Bogues' dialogue gets a comic kick from the performers, who don't mind pushing the boundaries of realism for the sake

of a laugh. The play still stalls a bit in its middle, but regains steam as an unexpected resolution is revealed.

Melissa Osoke directed both plays with a loose energy befitting the material, material that disproves the myth that lesbians and laughs are not an easy theatrical mix. ▼

Casual Encounters will run at Theatre Rhino through May 1. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Time remaining

Poignant, funny 'Kimberly Akimbo'

by Richard Dodds

Some of the intermission chatter at *Kimberly Akimbo* centered on who could play the title character in the upcoming movie version. It's a choice role for actresses of advanced years, for how often can they climb again into the mind of a 16-year-old? I cast an honorary vote for Jessica Tandy.

As far as a Bay Area production of David Lindsay-Abaire's play is concerned, the first choice would have to be Joy Carlin — and that's just who has the role at the SF Playhouse. This accomplished veteran is astutely playing a 16-year-old girl with Progeria, a rare genetic disorder that leads to the appearance of premature aging and kills almost all its victims before they reach 21.

This sounds like grim stuff, and there are certainly moments that are stunningly sad, but mostly the play wants to find both poignant and ribald humor in its situations. The playwright largely accomplishes this by surrounding the wryly introspective Kimberly Levaco with a family that is loony tunes. Unfortunately, this device also works against the story by overplaying eccentricities until they become annoying distractions.



Jeff (Jeremy Kahn), Kimberly (Joy Carlin) in *Kimberly Akimbo*.

Kent Nicholson has done a fine job of attractively weaving together the multiple scenes, a task aided by Bill English's clever sets. But certain scenes begin to sag before they're over, a problem that seems more with the script than the production.

The best moments are those that ring with a realistic truth, and most of those involve Kimberly and her nerdy classmate Jeff (a highly likable Jeremy Kahn). He's a member of the Junior Wordsmiths of America, and he creates

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FILM

Monroe doctrine

Divine Marilyn onscreen at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

The myth and iconography of Marilyn Monroe (1926-'62) have become so pervasive that assessing her actual abilities and the impact she had during her stardom has become increasingly difficult. Although she was popular, both Doris Day and Elizabeth Taylor were bigger box-office draws at the time. Critical opinion was often divided, and changed from movie to movie. Hollywood was equally ambivalent, publicizing Monroe extensively but never nominating her for an Oscar, even when she gave excellent performances. The Castro Theatre provides an opportunity for a fresh analysis by showing two of her most successful films, *The Seven Year Itch* ('55) and *How To Marry a Millionaire* ('53). The double-bill runs Mon.-Tues., April 25-26.

Monroe had small parts in the late '40s without creating much of a stir until she played Louis Calhern's infantile mistress in John Huston's *The Asphalt Jungle* and the "Graduate of the Copacabana School of Dramatic Arts" in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *All About Eve* ('50). In both, she was the object of condescension, and in *Eve* was, in David Thomson's memorable phrase, "the dummy among... all the sophisticates." But her parts got better, and stardom came when her studio, Twentieth Century Fox, cast her, rather than its aging queen, Betty Grable, as Lorelei Lee in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* ('53). In that film, Monroe's comic skills and awareness of the effect she had on men were perfectly realized.

Her preeminence was confirmed with *How To Marry a Millionaire*. Although Grable had the biggest part, Monroe was top-billed in this long but often amusing comedy of three "girls" determined to find rich husbands in Manhattan. The third is Lauren Bacall. Monroe looks terrific and is frequently quite funny as the near-sighted blonde who won't wear her glasses around men, and as a result regularly bumps into walls and experiences other con-



Marilyn Monroe plays the object of a married man's libidinous fantasies.

tremps. Grable is also exceptionally good as a Gracie Allen-like blonde. Bacall is the most stylish, acerbic, and smartest of the three, easily stealing the movie. The various men in their lives, rich and otherwise, include William Powell, Rory Calhoun, Fred Clark, Cameron Mitchell, and David Wayne. The cinematic scope photography enhances Monroe's physical assets. Directed by Jean Negulesco.

Libido play

George Axelrod's *The Seven Year Itch* had been a successful Broadway play before Twentieth purchased the rights for Monroe. Billy Wilder, who would later guide her to acclaim in *Some Like It Hot* ('59), directed and co-wrote the screenplay. Monroe is the object of a married man's (Tom Ewell) libidinous fantasies. They

live in the same Manhattan apartment building, and when his wife (Evelyn Keyes) and children go away for the summer, he obsesses over his neighbor, imagining different romantic encounters between them. After a while, the leering attitude gets tiresome, and Ewell is not an especially appealing actor, but his middle-aged, rumpled look probably found a responsive chord among married men who shared his lust while sitting in darkened theatres. Monroe looks sensational and makes gold from dross. The film contains perhaps her most famous image—standing over a subway grate while the wind blows her skirt up, exposing lots of leg as she looks surprised and amused. That shot was enlarged and became one of Times Square's most famous billboards. Like *Millionaire*, the film was a box-office smash. ▼

Battle-scarred poets

'Voices in Wartime' captured on film

by David Lamble

Laura Bush's attempt to convene a White House conclave of poets backfires when most of the poets want to use the occasion as a platform to protest her hubby's decision to take us to war in Iraq. Director Rick King uses this political fiasco as the jumping-off point for *Voices in Wartime*, a mostly engaging 75 minutes on the history of poetry and war.

Not surprisingly, because his poetry still inspires and he died so young, the star of the film is the British foxhole poet Wilfred Owen. Owen and his good friend Siegfried Sassoon were either among the first victims of post-traumatic-stress syndrome or just damn good writers. Owen's parents famously received the news of his battlefield death just as the bells began announcing the



Poet Siegfried Sassoon in 1915.

Armistice ending World War I. The film's other best moments can be found in an interview with the Superintendent of West Point on the uses made of poetry by

young men studying war, a biting excerpt from Langston Hughes' *Expendable*, and a brief visit with a couple of Iraqi poets, one of whom calls American soldiers representatives from a cowboy civilization, and the other of whom remembers life under that great patron of the arts, Saddam Hussein. Another scholar recalls that Plato shared the Bush family's ambivalence about poets, and banned them from his Republic.

Many of the film's participants reiterate that, from Ancient Greece to Iraq, the most acute understanding of war comes from those who've seen it up-close. "I think combat is a one-way door. I think once you've entered it, you can never come back."

Voices in Wartime ends on an inconclusive and bittersweet note as a young man explains, "Those poems will always exist. Maybe next time we'll succeed, next time we'll stop the war." *Now playing.* ▼

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An architectural symphony

Seems like old times with Blomstedt at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

Herbert Blomstedt, former Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, returned to the podium at Davies Hall last week for the first concert of his annual two-week stay.

Like some well-liked relative or admired teacher, Blomstedt always finds a warm welcome from local audiences and colleagues. I suspect the musicians find more pleasure in his visits than the fickle and forgetful public, but the band worked with him for a full 10 years before embarking on their current remarkable decade with the more glamorous Michael Tilson Thomas.

Blomstedt prepped them into an ensemble of international esteem, and they recorded an impressive catalogue of discs for the once-prestigious London/Decca label, before the sad decline of the classical market.

Still ramrod straight and keenly focused at 78, The Herbert maintains his no-nonsense yet basically loving approach to music. He has his preferences, always did; but they are thankfully based on the slightly off-center central repertoire.

His Beethoven is legendary, and his Brahms still lingers warmly in memory, but his dedication to Anton Bruckner and the difficult, maddening and glorious canon of symphonies will certainly be Blomstedt's legacy.

He has conducted them for a lifetime with the great orchestras of the world, and he has developed what has to be the surest hand imaginable. This is the kind of music that requires dedication, discipline and a probing academic mind. It doesn't hurt to have some divine inspiration lurking in the background either.

There have been so many revisions by the composer and by well-meaning and thoroughly hackneyed students and interpreters over the years, it's difficult to judge just what the proper approach is.

Bruckner was an impossible personality. Crude and rural in a sophisticated musical society, he also had a penchant for young girls, but expressed a ridiculously ignorant male chauvinism. His pious and background as a fabulously gifted organist proved his saving graces when it came to the brilliant, moving and deeply spiritual symphonies.

He also had what countless annotators have called an architectural mind. It remains an apt description of the music — mighty structures of towering magnificence, filled with windows open to nature and the frightening possibility of a stern and unforgiving god.

Michael Steinberg (formerly of San Francisco) put it well in the program notes for the recent performances of the Eighth Symphony. He imagines a master builder wandering amidst the construction of a great cathedral. Meditating, regretting and rejoicing in his own creation, the architect spends a long while pondering the meaning of the work and life itself.

True, true and true — the resulting symphony is perhaps the hardest nut to crack in all of Bruckner, but it does offer some richly satisfying rewards. It is a bit of a trial to sit through at a sometimes drowse-inducing 90 minutes, and the stop-and-go passages do little to create an organic flow. Still, when the power and the glory are at full-throttle, only the unconscious could resist.

Mountain passage

If anyone can make a case for the often revelatory and mind-altering passages of blazing excitement, it is Herbert Blomstedt. He attacks the work as one who faces a mountain after a lifetime of athletic preparation and intellectual study. The hushed and misty pages are explored with an unhurried gait, while the sudden flashes of light and awe-inspiring climaxes are handled with a steady control and amazing stamina.

The ultimate results last week earned an extended, deeply felt standing ovation for Blomstedt. There were many in the audience too young to know what his decade here was like, but those of a



Maestro Herbert Blomstedt

certain age were remembering the good times, and just how important some of the high points were.

The orchestra played sublimely. Separated strings and cellos (center stage) made a full and strong sound with the proper degree of transparency, but the brass, horns and even two harpists added a glow and strength that rocked the rafters.

When Bruckner gets this kind of treatment, one could imagine him sitting with Mahler and Wagner, Beethoven and Brahms, making his invitation to the table obligatory.

Cellist Michael Grebanier opened the lengthy concert with a pleasant performance of the pleasant Concerto No. 1 by Camille Saint-Saëns. It was an unnecessary curtain-raiser, and he suffered some pitch problems early in the piece, but he recovered quickly, making the passagework and finale dance with grace. The audience was charmed. ▼

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Coming attractions 2005-06 NCTC season

by Richard Dodds

The world premiere of a new play by Terrence McNally is a not-too-shabby way to celebrate a 25th anniversary. *Crucifixion*, by the four-time Tony Award winner, is the jewel in the silver anniversary of New Conservatory Theatre Center.

McNally's play, commissioned by the theater, is also part of the just-announced 2005-2006 Pride season of gay-flavored theater. Dubbed *Ties That Bind* by Artistic Director Ed Decker, the series' eight productions are "devoted to exploring our pragmatic and metaphorical connections to one another."

Here is a look at those eight plays:

- *Dangerous* (Aug. 5-Sept. 11) is Tom Smith's all-male retelling of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* that moves the tale of sexual treachery from 18th-century France to contemporary gay America.
- *Crucifixion* (Sept. 28-Nov. 6), the McNally premiere, follows multiple storylines before they converge as the murder of a television producer by a Jesuit priest is investigated.
- *After Dark* (Nov. 18-Dec. 31) is Steve Kluger's "sexy holiday comedy" about the coming together — and coming apart — of a gay couple.
- *Burn This* (Jan. 13-Feb. 19) is Lanford Wilson's 1987 drama about an unhinged straight man who crashes into the lives of a young dancer and her caustic gay roommate.
- *Theatre District* (Jan. 27-March 5) is a coming-of-age story about a teenage boy who moves in with his aloof father and the father's doting boyfriend. Playwright Richard Kramer has written for TV's *thirtysomething*, *My So-Called Life*, and *Once and Again*.
- *Hijra* (March 31-May 7, 2006) takes its name from the cross-dressing men in India who are said to have magic powers. Playwright Ash Kotak weaves these shamans into a story of a gay couple from Bombay struggling to stay together.
- *Valhalla* (May 12-June 24, '06) finds the unlikely common ground between Mad King Ludwig of 19th-century Bavaria and a fictional wild Texas teenager of the 1940s. Playwright Paul Rudnick's credits include *Jeffrey* and *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*.
- *The Fabulous Adventures of Captain Queer* (June 2-July 9, '06) concludes the season with another commissioned world premiere. In the comedy, Prince Gomolivilas creates a gay superhero who must save America from the evil Reginald Screamingbottom.

Season subscriptions are \$120-\$280, and will be available beginning April 28 by calling 861-8972 or going to nctcfs.org. ▼



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Channel 255

Blowing smoke in Rome and at home

by Victoria A. Brownworth

April is indeed the cruelest month: Not only are taxes due, but on the tube, as the nonstop festival of season finales and sweeps escalates, the long summer of reruns and also-ran midseason replacements looms. Soon the networks will all look like UPN wannabes.

Every time we turned on the tube this week, there was Terrell Owens (known to what fans he has left as TO) crying the kind of big, wet, glycerin tears that would give Susan Lucci

pause, over his salary "problems." His performance on ESPN's *DoubleTake* was worthy of any soap diva.

The outrageously overblown salaries in professional sports contributed to the cancellation of the entire hockey season (which might not have been a huge loss to some, but think of all the dentists losing work). These ludicrous salaries also push athletes to use steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs in order to stay in the game. Fans are gouged with ticket prices that now rival the cost of a trip to Europe.

Since Owens joined the

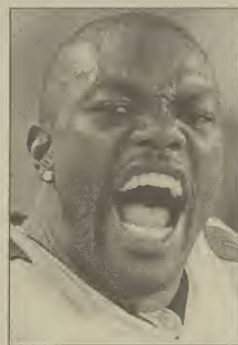
Philadelphia Eagles last year as the highest paid wide receiver ever, signing a contract for \$49 million, he has created nothing but controversy in and out of the NFL. Super-talented, super-sexy and super-smart-assed, TO's cute bad-boy persona put him in the news repeatedly. His star turn with Nicolette Sheridan (*Desperate Housewives*) in a racy locker-room promo received as much attention

as his performance on the field, and his dissing of other players earned him a reputation for shooting from the lip. TO stormed into the NFL like gangsta-bustas.

After spending two months on the bench with a broken ankle during the play-offs, he returned for the Super Bowl like a hero. He did a creditable job, but the Eagles still lost to the Boston Patriots. Now Owens is trying to renegotiate his contract for more money, saying he needs it to support his family.

Right. We think TO is adorable, but we also think he needs to get a grip on reality, and so do the Powers-That-Be in the major leagues. Granted, most players have a limited number of years in their sport due to injuries and aging (hence the peril of steroids). But if TO

can't support his family on the \$9.5 million he got from the Eagles last year, he doesn't need a new agent, he needs a new accountant. TO made approximately \$450,000 per game last season, more than what the President made. We think that's too much for any player, talented or not. (Ask Tiger Woods how much he makes in a year. Golf requires skill and stamina, and you play more than 10 games per season.) The TO debacle makes it clear that it's past time for owners and negotiators in football, baseball and basketball to take heed to what happened with the NHL. Diva salaries reward diva behavior, not good playing. It's the fans who suffer.



Terrell Owens cries crocodile tears.

We were watching tennis superstars Venus and Serena Williams on *Oprah* the same day TO was leaking all over cable. These women weren't whining to *Oprah* about how women's sports don't make as much money as men's, nor were they complaining about how small the cup money is for Wimbledon. Rather, they were there with actress Jada Pinkett Smith, talking to teenage girls about how to survive being nerdy, how to withstand peer pressure, how to be true to one's self despite odds stacked against one. In short, they were being honest, forthright role models helping their fan base. How novel.

There's an old saying (devised by lawyers, we think) that contracts were made to be broken. But wouldn't it be refreshing if some of these sports divas took a page from the Williams sisters' book (actually, they do have a new one on just this topic) and started playing for their fans instead of

stealing from them?

West world

As the stock market dives into a freefall worthy of *Fear Factor* (or the Bush Administration's policies), it's good to know there is one set of politicians who will never disappoint: the crew on NBC's *The West Wing*. The season finale last week reminded us of just how exciting the American process of government can be. Bill Maher used to refer to WW as the shadow White House, to which we respond: if only!

Iconoclastic Latino Congressman Matt Santos (Jimmy Smits, in one of his best performances ever) is the Democratic heir apparent to Jed Bartlet (Martin Sheen). Santos, like Bartlet, has what the real Democrats used to have: smarts plus moxie plus, omigod, integrity. Bartlet's Chief of Staff Leo McGarry (John Spencer) is his running mate with gravitas. On the Republican ticket, Congressman Vinick (Alan Alda) is the John McCain-without-the-lunacy moderate who will give Santos the run of his life come autumn. Do we ever wish we could vote in that election!

Every minute of the WW season finale was riveting. There were dirty tricks galore (sex scandals revealed, a candidate's wife's treatment for depression leaked to the press) and an old-fashioned floorfight which engendered the kind of real-life media commentary we're used to: Why can't the Democrats get their act together? The saddest part of the WW season finale wasn't knowing the Bartlet White House wasn't long for this (TV) world. It was knowing that WW and its politicians on both sides of the aisle are closer to the democracy most Americans yearn for than what we get from the Beltway.

Speaking of bad reality series, can we get the Powers-That-Be on cable and the networks to stop giving TV shows to has-been actors with obvious mental problems? We thought Anna Nicole Smith had set the bar as low as it could go, but the Farrah Fawcett debacle (*Chasing Farrah*) takes pathetic to a whole new level.

Pathetic might not be the word for Britney Spears — or maybe it is. But we are also so not looking forward to her reality series, whether it's about her pregnancy or her new marriage to her former

dancer. (Query to Britney: Did it occur to you that marrying a guy who had just abandoned his pregnant girlfriend/mother of his other child might not bode well for your future?) Don't stay tuned to this.

That's also the message viewers are getting from the daily dose of ickiness being served up in sunny California at the Michael Jackson trial. Remember how the nation was riveted to previous celebrity trials? Not so the Jackson trial, despite the bizarre daily re-enactments on E. (What is up with that? But we do love the faux re-enactments of the trial with puppets on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*.)

Why the lack of interest in the Jacko trial? Could it be after all the scandals in the Catholic Church in recent years, pedophilia just isn't the voyeuristic thrill it used to be? Or is it just that every single person involved in the case seems so disturbed that it's too stomach-churning to witness? The trial hasn't even ended, and the verdict is in: Everyone involved is both a victim and a perpetrator, and definitely a loser. What a sorry end to Jackson's once-terrific career.

Speaking of sorry careers, is the nation as numbed to the Beltway as they are to all this celebrity nonsense? That would be the only explanation for the utter silence in response to the runaway Bush government. What else has to be televised for the American audience to pay attention? That cozy little vigilante round-up of 10,000 criminals on the loose last week, announced by our new Attorney General Alberto "Speedy" Gonzales, barely caused a ripple.

How cool was that? Just like a video game! Grand Theft Auto meets Washington. Too bad the Bush team isn't as down with Al-Qaeda or Osama bin Laden as they are with American criminals. We'd all be safe as houses.

Don't expect much safety *vis a vis* the UN once John Bolton gets his foot in that door. We're sure there's a worse candidate Bush could have chosen for the position, we just can't quite imagine who that might be, since the folks who come to mind are all on trial for war crimes in the Hague. The only thing we're stunned by is the lack of response by Americans to the televised hearings. Maybe most Americans really believe that having someone head the UN

next page ►



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FILM

Starring San Francisco

'Reel San Francisco,' week two at the Balboa

by Tavo Amador

Week Two of the Balboa Theatre's terrific series on movies shot and set in San Francisco starts with Francis Ford Coppola's stunning *The Conversation* ('74), starring Gene Hackman as Harry Caul, surveillance expert supreme. He's so good at what he does that he soon imagines he himself is being secretly watched and listened to. Seldom has paranoia been so frightening or suspenseful. Coppola wrote the original, Oscar-nominated screenplay. The film was nominated for Best Picture, but lost to Coppola's other masterpiece, *The Godfather II*. Hackman is unforgettable: repulsive, sympathetic, scary, but always human. With Cindy Williams, two years before *Laverne and Shirley*. Watch for the scenes of mimes performing around Union Square. The look and feel of San Francisco in the '60s is captured in Richard Lester's comedy *Petulia* ('68), starring Julie Christie as a socialite hot for recently divorced George C. Scott. With Richard Chamberlain and clips of Janis Joplin and The Grateful Dead. (4/21-22)

John Huston made his directorial debut with the third version of Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* ('41), starring Humphrey Bogart as the homophobic Sam Spade. The movie made Bogey a romantic star after several years in supporting roles, gangster parts, or second leads. With Mary Astor as Brigit O'Shaughnessy, a woman not to be trusted; the extraordinary Sydney Greenstreet, in his first film, as the lascivious Gutman, who seems attracted to Spade; Peter Lorre as Joel Cairo, subtly suggesting the character's gayness; and Elisha Cook, Jr., all in pursuit of a legendary bird. Gladys George is good as the not-too-grief-stricken widow of Spade's partner Miles Archer, and Lee Patrick is splendid as his knowing secretary, Effie. A



Humphrey Bogart is homophobic Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*.

decade earlier, Ricardo Cortez played Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon* ('31), also known as *Dangerous Female*. Unlike Bogey, Cortez's pre-Hollywood Production Code Spade is happy to bed every willing female he comes across. (4/23-24)

If popularity were the sole criterion, silent-screen queen Mary Pickford would probably be ranked as the greatest star of all time. In *Amarilly of Clothes Line Alley* ('18), America's Sweetheart is a cigarette girl who falls for a local swell whom she meets at a bar. (11:30 a.m., 4/24, separate admission)

In *Out of the Past* ('47), the treacherous female isn't a blonde but a brunette (the sensational

Jane Greer). Robert Mitchum is the man foolish enough to love her. A young Kirk Douglas is

scary as a well-dressed gangster who doesn't like to be crossed. With Rhonda Fleming, frequently a temptress, as a nice woman. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. Perennial favorite *Sudden Fear* ('52) stars Joan Crawford as a wealthy San Francisco socialite and successful Broadway playwright. She fires actor Jack Palance from her show, but winds up marrying him, despite their age and status differences. Things seem fine until his ex-girlfriend, the always amazing Gloria Grahame, tempts him into murdering his spouse. A betrayed Crawford is fearsome indeed, and she received an Oscar nod for her operatic performance, as did Palance in the supporting actor category. Spectacular San Francisco location shots. Crawford's mansion is at 2800 Scott Street. Suspenseful direction by David Miller. (4/25-26)

Local documentary director Terry Zwigoff's *Crumb* ('94) is an intimate look at troubled, sex-obsessed artist Robert Crumb, hailed by *Time*'s Robert Hughes as "the Breughel of the 20th century." *The Lenny Bruce Performance Film* ('67) captured the legendary comic in his penultimate nightclub engagement, at San Francisco's Basin Street West. John Magnuson's documentary is arresting and shows why mainstream America found Bruce so threatening — it was more than just his "foul" language. (4/27) ▼

Akimbo

◀ page 32

an appropriate anagram from her name: Cleverly Akimbo. They are kindred spirits who manage at least a temporary escape from their unhappy home lives.

For Kimberly, this includes an alcoholic father (Clive Worsley) and a pregnant mother (a manic Susi Damilano) who is unthinkingly cruel to Kimberly, not to mention a resident of a frustratingly different reality than the other characters. Finally, there is Kimberly's bad-girl lesbian aunt

(an enjoyably crazed Deb Fink), who enlists Kimberly and Jeff in one of her illegal schemes.

This leads to the most powerful image in the play, when Kimberly sheds her teenager's clothing for an old-lady's dress. "You look like Rose Kennedy," says the aunt. It's a funny line that covers up the shock that they (and we) feel at this unwelcome affirmation of mortality. ▼

Kimberly Akimbo will run at the SF Playhouse through May 21. Tickets are \$30. Call 677-9596 or go to sfplayhouse.org.

Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

who hates the very concept of what the UN does is really OK. Where is the *West Wing* team when we need them?

Finally, as you read this, the most secret meeting in the world might have already ended. The white or black smoke might have already puffed out of the little chimney for the convening of the Conclave of Cardinals. The whole

spectacle of the process is pretty darned fascinating. What's a tad disturbing, however, is that this oldest working voting body in the world is more honest and forthright in its secrecy than the world's greatest democracy is in its revelations. Now *that's* a conundrum to ponder as we await the reveal on who the next pope will be.

Don't miss the new miniseries *Revelations* on NBC in the WW time slot: it's *X-Files* meets the *End Times*, well worth a look. Stay tuned. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

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Noche de Cabaret

@ Community Music Center
AGUILAS presents Noche de Cabaret: Canasta de Cuen los Mexicanos (A Night of Raw Passion Revisited from The Mexican Victorian Era). A night of music, dance and history interwoven in a Mexican tale. Presented by AGUILAS at the Community Music Center. Enter a time in Mexico when silence and secrecy were assumed, and voices muted. The curtain pulls back to expose the forbidden story of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz — a 19th century woman devoted to a life of clergy, and liberated by her passion for women. More than 20 Latino artists and friends unveil seven portraits of events

and personalities framing the last 200 years of cultural heritage and "deviance" in Mexico. Free. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. Info: 415-558-8403; www.sfgailes.org

Thea Hillman / Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café
Writer Thea Hillman is featured reader at the next Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch (every 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month). It's a night for queers and allies of all stripes, colors, and affiliations to come together and share art, poems, thoughts, conversations, passions and a damn good cuppa joe. Hillman is an activist and author from Oakland. She's performed her work at schools and performance venues across the U.S. Her first book, *Depending on the Light* was published in 2001. Look for her forthcoming work in *On Our Backs*

magazine and the anthology *50 Ways to Support Lesbian and Gay Equality*. Her next book about growing up and coming out intersex, entitled *For Lack of a Better Word*, will be released in 2006. For more info and performance schedule, visit: \$1-\$5 donation (NOTAFLOR). Queer Open Mic happens at the Three Dollar Bill Café on the first floor of the SF LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market @ Octavia. Info: theahillman.com; www.threedollarbill.com

'Casual Encounters' @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents the premiere of "Casual Encounters": Two one-act plays by Maureen Bogues and Karole Langlois. Directed by Melissa Ososke. \$10 Wed.; \$15 Thu., Fri., & Sun.; \$15. \$20 Sat. Show runs thru May 1, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 3:30 pm. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix: 415-861-5079. Info: www.therhino.org

Beautiful Child @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents Nicky Silver's controversial black comedy *Beautiful Child*. Directed by John Dixon. How do you love someone who falls outside our moral code? Show runs thru Apr. 24, \$20 Thu., Sun. Mats & Sun Eves; \$25 Fri.; \$28 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. eves; 3pm Sun. Mats. Main Stage, Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission/SO. Van Ness). Tix: 415-861-5079; www.therhino.org

The Shooting Stage @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten continues with Michael Lewis MacLennan's award-winning drama *The Shooting Stage* directed by Dan Oliveira. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. Show runs thru May 8. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

Confessions of a Mormon Boy @ NCTC

Newly expanded and revised: *Confessions of a Mormon Boy*, a solo show written and performed by Steven Fales and directed by Jack Hoffiss. Co-produced by Utah-based MB Productions. Fales, a sixth-generation Mormon, plays various characters from his highly distinctive life's journey as a gay Mormon, an Eagle Scout, missionary to Portugal, BYU graduate, husband, father, and Manhattan escort. Show runs thru Apr. 24, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. mat. at 2pm. \$30 Fri.-Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. www.nctc.org

Guilty Pleasure Costume Concert @ Victorian Englander House

Seth Montfort and Friends present their "Guilty Party Costume Concert Series". Weekly concerts every Fri. at 10pm. Featuring The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, Karen Bentley, viola, & violin, Joseph gold, violin, Seth Montfort, piano, and others performing works by Chopin, Gershwin, Kreisler, Sax, Montfort, and others. \$5-\$10. Fri., Apr. 22, 10pm. Victorian Englander House (1880-2005), Cathedral Hill / Opera Plaza / Civic Center at 807 Franklin St. (btwn Turk & Eddy). Info: 415-362-6080; www.sfcostumeconcert.com

Four SF Poets @ Adobe Book Store.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Adobe Book Store invites you to an evening featuring four of San Francisco's most unique and important poets. Nztokake Shange, legendary playwright, poet, novelist and performer began her career in SF in the 1970's and has recently returned. Ms. Shange wrote the Obie Award-winning play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered

Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuff" and will be reading selections from her many books of poetry, as well as from her latest book, "The Sweet Breath of Life." Susan Birkeland is a poet, painter and performance artist whose works include "Ruby's Renegade Rapture", curating and hosting of Venue 9's successful "Meet the Beat" series and the dance/music/monologue "Reunion-Liberation". Klipschitz (aka Kurt Lipschitz) is the author of the highly regarded "Twilight of the Male Ego" and "The Erection of Scaffolding for the Re-Painting of heaven by the Lowest Bidder". Tom Stolmar is an extraordinary verbal/physical acrobat, whose work consistently leaves his audiences amused and astonished. Free. Fri. Apr. 22 at 7pm. Adobe Book Store, 3166 16th St. (btwn Valencia & Guerrero)

Gender Pirates' Earth Day @ Femina Potens

All-Ages Gender Pirates' Earth Day Show for all freaks, punks, queers, transies, genderqueers, men, women, genderfuckers, multiples, femmes, intersexes, rockstars, shyboys, skaterz, strippers, activists, workers, artists, felons, and everyone else. Lynnee Bredlowe serves as your badass emcee. Entertainment by Andre the Urban Hermit (fabulous freestyle hip hop artist); Firemonkey (hot genderqueer fire-dancer); Fritz Flohr (radical spoken word performer); Anna Mills (writer most extraordinary); Dr. Sam (musical sensation on trumpet); Nadyalee (Arab genderqueer erotica wordmaster). Cameo appearances by: Eli Wise (infamous post-rock singer); MK (fabulous post-performance poet); and DJ Sam with hip hop, queer 80's, and punk rock! A benefit for United Genders of the Universe's genderqueer/transgender support groups, gender education speaker's bureau, and community events including this year's Trans March. \$3-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOR). 8-12pm Fri., Apr. 22. Femina Potens, 465 South Van Ness at 16th.

Su Feng-yi @ Geras-Tousignant Gallery

Opening reception: Su Feng-yi, on of the finest Chinese Snuff Bottle Artists of the new generation. Mr. Su has incorporated the style and subject matter of classical Chinese painting into the unique art form of miniature snuff bottles. During the Saturday event, Mr. Su will demonstrate the skills of inside-painting by rendering the final touch to a special snuff bottle to be gifted to the Asian Art Museum of SF. Receptions on Fri. & Sat., April 22 & 23, 5-9pm each day. 437 Pacific Ave. Info: 415-986-1647; www.tftfineart.com

Foot Party SF

All-male parties for guys into (or curious about) feet, socks, footwear, tickling, trampling and more. Watch the latest foot-fetish videos. Meet sexy foot models! Get to know other hot guys into your scene. 8pm-2am. \$20 gen'l adm.; \$10 students under 25 w/ID; \$5 under-21. Parties held the 4th Friday of each month at a private space in the Mission District. Location sent via email (subscribe to partyinfo-request@footpartysf.com) or call (877)299-2338.

Sat 23

SF Hiking Club

@ Sculptured Beach

Join other outdoors lovers for a hike to Arch Rock, spectacular Sculptured Beach, and then back over Mt. Wittenberg. It's a moderate 13-mile hike with a 2,300-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info:



Fiery wordsmith Thea Hillman is featured at Three Dollar Bill Café's "Queer Open Mic". See Friday.

www.sfhiking.com

Q Jitterbugs Swing Dance Party @ Synergy

Queer Jitterbugs Swing Dance Party. 7pm beginning jitterbug lesson with Charleston. 8pm Intermediate 6-count moves. 8:30pm intermediate Lindy. 9pm to Midnight Swing Dance Party. Donation: \$10 drop in; half off for weekly class students. Volunteers & under-21 free. Synergy School, 1387 Valencia at 25th. Info: 415-305-8242; www.QueerJitterbugs.com

Rolando Morales Power Trio @ Michael's Octavia Lounge

Rolando Morales Power Trio. \$10 cover plus \$10 Food/Drink Minimum. Two Shows/One Night only: Sat., Apr. 23 at 9pm & 10:45pm. Michael's Octavia Lounge A Cabaret & Supper Club, 1772 Market Street @ Octavia Boulevard Reservations: (415) 863-3690; (415) 863-3516

Sun 24

AEF's 'Fortune Tellers Ball' @ IMG Home

Find out your future on Sunday, April 24, when AIDS Emergency Fund will host "The Fortune Tellers Ball," AEF's 23rd annual awards gala, an evening of psychics, clairvoyants, tarot card readers, belly dancers, astrologists and more. Guest will enjoy free fortunetelling services, dine on out-of-this-world delicacies from Out Of Thyme Catering and partake of California wines and Absolut martinis. The evening celebrates the contributions of key volunteers and donors and includes the presentation of five awards. Belly dancers from FatChanceBellyDance and a special fire performance by Fire Arts Collective will round out the entertainment. The evening will end with a silent and live auction, including a seven-day cruise for two on Holland America cruise lines and several rugs from the IMG showroom. Tickets are \$100 each (price includes parking next door to IMG Home, at 15th and Harrison). 5-9pm. IMG Home showroom, 1830 Harrison St. Tix/info: 415-558-6999 ext 3; www.aidsemergencyfund.org

GG Men's Chorus Benefit @ Eagle Tavern

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus is hosting their annual Beverage Benefit. They promise lots of fun and their famous lasagna dinner. A \$15 buzz cut by Eureka Barbershop will earn you two free tix to their next concert. Raffle & auction. Fun prizes. 10% of proceeds from auction will be donated to AIDS Emergency Fund. 3pm. Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St.

Sippy Cups Earth Day B-Day Party

@ Randall Museum Theater
Join The Sippy Cups for a rockin' birthday bash celebrating Earth Day. This pop-rock band plays cool tunes irresistible to kids and their parents alike. Songs from The Beatles, The Velvet Underground, T. Rex, Pink Floyd, Love, War, Sly Stone, The Ramones and more. The band creates a party atmosphere with a circus performer and interactive audience participation. \$7 (free for babes in arms). 11am & 1:30pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro & 14th sts). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

AIRspace @ Jon Sims Center

JSC AIRspace (Artist-In-Residence) presents Voices of Rhythm, RAWdance, and Kathryn Matzen. Voices of Rhythm: Directed and Choreographed by Jennie Marshall who regularly performs at Bruno's Jazz Club and with the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra. Jennie is working on tap dance pieces that convey imaginative and abstract ideas reflecting various tribulations within our society. RAWdance: Ryan T. Smith & Wendy Rein draw on the history of sexology in order to explore how definitions imposed on our physical and sexual identities impact our self-perception and our intimate relationships. Vectors Come With Strings Attached by Kathryn Matzen uses movement notations and improvisational scores to explore initiations. Where do movement and

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Dear yoga journal

Monday: My yoga teacher Stuart Siegel's guru, Sri K. Pattabhi Jois from Mysore, India, now celebrating his 90th birthday, is in town from April 18-29 leading Ashtanga Yoga classes at the Regency Center (1290 Sutter St. @ Van Ness Ave.) and it would be a good thing if I got up early for either the 6 a.m. or 8 a.m. weekday classes. Drop-in classes are only \$50. Get info from Ashtanga Yoga Research Institute; email gurujis@yahoo.com or call (415) 601-3008. Doing this would certainly bring me good karma.

Tuesday: Not sure I'm ready for the full primary series of poses, which Guruji will be teaching at the 6 a.m. class. Ashtanga is a tough workout, to say the least. Maybe the half primary at the 8 a.m. class this first week. Surely I could handle that, if not with unlimited grace; in fact I usually crap out midway through the half primary series; can't imagine surviving the full series, which is for immortal beings. Stuart thinks I can do it if I only put more intention into my practice. Stuart is hilarious!

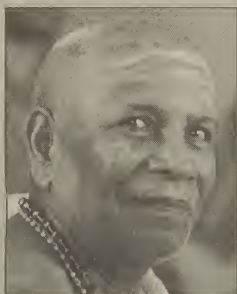
Wednesday: Found my car booted on my way to yoga class. Maybe I've been putting too much of my intention into my yoga practice and not enough into paying parking tickets. Must be a message from Shiva that it's time to stop burning fossil fuels and get the old clunker off the streets of the Mission District. Will do some extra vinyasas in Stuart's class to work of the bad karma. Still don't know yet about making Guruji's classes.

Thursday: Tomorrow (Friday, April 22 — Earth Day) is the last day the 8 a.m. half-primary series class is offered. Must focus on getting motivated. Was talking with friends about whether Guruji was gay friendly or not, and asked Stuart about it, and he said Guruji was from an ancient lineage, and such a question was outside the scope of his teaching. Since I'm part of a queer yoga community, I'm hardly starved for role models, but what would Guruji think? Even if he's open-minded and gay friendly, would he approve of our clothing-optional practice?

Friday: Am starting to get gung-ho about practicing with Guruji. Paid off those parking tickets and now just have to find someone who wants to buy an old Nissan Sentra with a France sticker on the back. The car's in fine running condition, but the sticker and the car's puniness elicit aggressive behavior from steroid SUV's and pickups with NRA stickers and American flags. Hard to remain unflapped. All the more reason to study with Guruji.

Saturday: Alas, Guruji is teaching only weekdays, not weekends, so I'll have to wait till Monday morning to fulfill my intention of studying with the Master. Meanwhile, Stuart will be leading our group in a full moon chanting circle tonight (April 23; email him for more info at yogabird23@yahoo.com). We'll be chanting the *Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra* 108 times. Stuart says this beautiful Shiva chant is particularly auspicious on the full moon. The only stress from chanting is in sitting cross-legged for 45 minutes. And even that's not mandatory; faery dancing is allowed.

Sunday: Today is the day of reckoning. Will I in fact drop in at Guruji's class tomorrow morning? The full moon has me jazzed. I can feel the extra energy surging through my channels. Chanting builds confidence and focuses intention. Yes, I think I'm capable of doing the full primary series tomorrow at 6 a.m. with one of the world's most demanding teachers. A cinch. Will decide today after the beer bust at the Eagle Tavern. ▼



Sri K. Pattabhi Jois ("Guruji")



AIRspace presents RAWdance at Jon Sims Center for the Arts. See Sunday.



Violinist Karen Bentley joins Seth Montfort and Friends for their "Guilty Party Costume Concert Series" at the Victorian Englander House. See Friday.

change originate? A typewriter quartet accompanies genderqueer performer Kathryn Matzen, punctuating his quirky movement with a metallic running commentary. \$10 - \$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Sunday, April 24, 2005 at 6:00pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street (11th). Info/tix: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

BORG2 Art Assimilation Day @ Bay Area Motor Club

Let yourself be assimilated into art as the Bay Area Motor Club — SF's only Self Service Auto Garage — hosts "BORG2 Art Assimilation Day". 1pm "Creating Ritual" by Gisella of the Voodoo Cabaret; 3rd Annual Mutant Vehicle Social (bring your art car/mutant vehicle); BBQ grills start at 12:30 (bring stuff to cook & your own booze; some food for sale). 2pm: free-for-all Group ArtMaking. CLASSES presented by LilyCat & TheNetworkGirl: "Make your own Zine!" with Bill Brent author of "Make a Zine!" and Matt Holdaway of Multiple of Voices; "Costuming, like they do for the Movies" (vacuum forming/plastic resin casting for props and costume) with Richard of the Crackerbox; "DIY Silk Screening" with Carol Sheppard; "Networking" with TheNetworkGirl; "Getting people to work for you for free" with Killian MacGeraghty of the Gun and Doll Show; "Event Planning" with Melinda from LilyCat; and "Cool Neon Soldering" (www.coolneon.com) \$5 per class in advance; \$7 per class day of event; all-day VIP pass \$35. 11am-4pm. Bay Area Motor Club, 1598 Custer, corner of Rankin & Custer Ave. Info/tix: www.borg2.org; www.bayareamotorclub.com

Meditation

@ Saraha Center Temple
Sunday Morning Meditation/Prayers for World Peace with Kadam Lucy James and Senior Students of Saraha Buddhist Center 10 a.m. to 12 at Saraha Center's Temple at 3324 17th St. between Valencia and Mission. Come and find out what you can do for peace, starting with yourself. Class includes an inspirational talk, special prayers, guided meditations, and practical discussion, followed by refreshments and a chance to socialize and talk more with members of our community. Suggested donation \$5. Call 415-503-1187 for more information or just drop in. Everyone welcome.

People's Park 36th Anniversary Celebration, Berkeley

Join your fellow cultural liberationists for "People's Park 36th Anniversary Celebration." Music: Hightower; New Funk Generation; Shelley Doty; Andrea Pritchett; Green and Root; All Nations Singers; Berkeley Liberation Orchestra; Acoustic Jams and Sing-a-long; Plus: Wavy Gravy; Ignacio Chapela; Julia Vinograd, Skateboard Park. Food Not Bombs. Maypole. Kids Fun. All welcome. Area near main stage is clothing-optional. Bring cameras! Free! Sun., Apr. 24, noon-6pm. People's Park, just east of Telegraph & Dwight Avenues in Berkeley. Info: www.bapd.org/n5719.html

DJ Jerry Bonham

@ Soul Recharge / Glas Kat
San Francisco's famed DJ Jerry Bonham is going back to his x70s & x80s disco roots by celebrating the spirit of the Trocadero Transfer in "Soul Recharge," chapter 3 of White Light Productions' "Remember the Party series. Dick Collier, creator of the Trocadero Transfer, passed away on Christ-mas Eve 2004; his niece, Jennifer Collier, will be flying in to attend the party with some other family members. Jennifer will

be bringing along some interesting Trocadero Memorabilia. Also, in Dec. 2004, SF lost one of its famed DJs from The 1-Beam, Michael Garret; some of Michael's family will be in attendance at "Soul Recharge" to mingle with old friends and colleagues and meet newcomers to the scene. DJ Jerry Bonham has influenced the sound and popularity of Dreamland, Pleasuredome, 1015, Ruby Skeye, DV8, Powerhouse, Detour and many Folsom St. and Dore Alley fairs. \$15 adv; \$20 door. 6pm-2:30am. Glas Kat (formerly Trocadero Transfer), 520 Fourth St. Tix/info: 415-339-7807; Medium Rare Music; www.remembertheparty.com

Mon 25

LGBT Meditation Group @ The Center

Buddhist Peace Fellowship meditation group. 5:30-6:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: LGBTsangha@aol.com; www.sfgaycenter.org

Monday Night Knit @ Three Dollar Bill Café

Bring that sweater you have been working on, the hat you have not had time to finish or that scarf you have been promising to make for a friend. Join your fellow knitters (and crocheters) every Monday night 7-9pm. Three Dollar Bill Café, ground floor, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: www.threedollarbill.com

Tue 26

OUT Spoken @ Comcast Ch. 11

OUT Spoken hosts Janine Shiota & Tim Gaskin welcome Queer Eye's Gal Pals Honey Labrador and Robbie Laughlin, Dr. Rev Peggy Nixon and Dist. 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi. Feature profiles on CBS's Amazing Race 4 winner Reichen and PlanetOut, Inc. Watch OUT Spoken episode six on Comcast Ch. 11 on Tue, April 26, 6:30pm. The show repeats Wed., April 27, 6:30pm, Sat., April 30, 6:30pm and Sun., April 31, 6:30pm.

Wed 27

SAGE @ The LGBT Center

Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE) hosts a weekly support group for men who have traded sex for money or drugs for survival. Every Wed., 5-6pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: sage@dnai.com

Gentle Yoga @ The Center

Yoga Class organized by New Leaf Outreach for Elders. Yoga, stretching and relaxation for those 55 and older. Every Wednesday, 10-11:15am. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

Thu 28

Charlie Anders @ A Different Light Bookstore

Charlie Anders reads from *Choir Boy*, a bittersweet and surreal story of a choirboy who takes female hormones to keep his voice from changing and discovers a world of gender confusion. A fantastical coming of age



Charlie Anders reads from her new book, *Choir Boy*, at A Different Light Bookstore. See Thursday.

fable in the tradition of Geek Love, Charlie Anders' first novel reminds us just how much power and horror there is in following one's true heart. Thursday, April 28, 7:00pm. A Different Light, Castro near 18th St.

Innovation @

Kohl Mansion, Burlingame

The AIDS Community Research Consortium (ACRC) will host a major gala, "Innovation: Embracing and Empowering a New Community." The event celebrates ACRC's 16 years of dedicated service to the HIV/AIDS community. Steve Westly, California State Controller, will be the guest of honor. Also recognizing Michael Edell, ACRC Founding Executive Director; Michelle Long Dixon, Director AIDS Office, City of SF Dept. of Public Health; and Gilead Sciences. CBS 5 anchor and host of Bay Sundahy, Barbara Rodgers, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. 6-10pm. Kohl Mansion, 2750 Adeline Dr. (btwn Alvarado & Hoover), Burlingame. Tix/info: 800-864-2272; www.acrc.org/gala

My Big Queer Quiz Show @ Billy DeFrank Center, San Jose

Think you know enough about the Gay and Lesbian Community? Then, come, play, and WIN! My Big Queer Quiz Show is a fast-paced, visually stimulating, trivia-oriented, live game show that guides contestants through a series of games that have a gay and lesbian flair. Thousands of dollars in cash and prizes! Contestants are selected by drawing (raffle ticket) to compete with one another until one player is champion. We also have many door prizes to give away to players that are selected by drawing (raffle ticket). Raffle tickets are 1/\$5, 3/\$10. We offer a "free ticket with purchase" to Billy DeFrank members, DeFrank group attendees, and youth (under 18). Mention this website for your free ticket with purchase! Admission is FREE (donations welcome). Seating is limited. 7:30-10pm. This is a fundraising event for the DeFrank Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose. Info: Producer Robby Kendall (RobbyKendall@aol.com; 408-293-3040 x 215); www.defrank.org

Dining Out For Life, SF

Step up to the plate during Dining Out For Life on Thursday, April 28 for the STOP AIDS Project. Dining Out For Life is a city-wide event that attracts thousands of people to more than 60 San Francisco restaurants and eateries. This unique fundraiser bridges the needs of a great organization with one thing that San Franciscans excel at - dining out. Participating restaurants donate 25% of their total food bill that day to critical work of the STOP AIDS Project in stemming the tide of HIV infections in SF. Dining Out For Life recognizes often overlooked supporters - local businesses and low-dollar donors. Last year, this unique approach resulted in raising \$120,000, making the STOP AIDS Project's largest fundraiser. Info: 415-575-0150 x 260 or visit www.diningoutforlife.com.

Dining Out for Life, East Bay

Dining Out for Life benefiting The Center for AIDS Services, Oakland, to raise funds for those living with HIV/AIDS! Dine out at one of the 63 participating East Bay restaurants and 25% (or more) of your bill will be donated to The Center for AIDS Services. Make a Pledge to Dine Out on April 28th and help those living with HIV/AIDS! Info: www.diningoutforlife.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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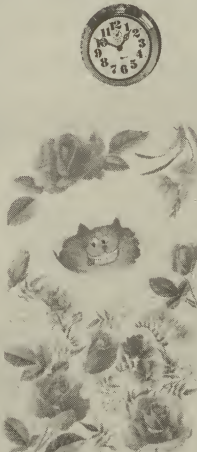
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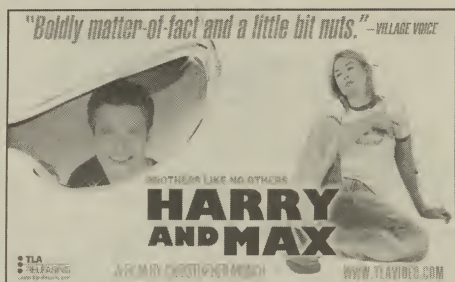
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SF Film Festival

◀ Arts cover

ject: the everydayness of Adrian's work at the bowling alley; his relationships with male co-workers; and how working nights impacts his days and his relationship with his girlfriend. Nothing much happens, yet everything happens. Poliak's beautiful film is an unintentional tone poem against the absurdity of American Puritanism and its bias against the homo sensual. When Adrian collapses on his small cot, we know exactly what he's resting up from. A minor classic. Please don't arrive late. (PFA, 4/23; Kabuki, 4/24, 26)

Ronda Nocturna Director Edgardo Cozarinsky turns an old man's eye on a young man's game. Victor (the ravishing Gonzalo Heredia) is a country boy who's become a world-class street hustler. We first spy him in the gay-for-pay uniform of white T-shirt and dark jeans, emerging from the army of night people, lost souls who clean up after the office crowd; who sell flowers, recycle cans, or just wait for some treasure to tumble into their hands. Victor begins his night with a salute to other boys of the street. "Long time no see." "It's you who vanished."

By 8 p.m., Victor's #1 client, a

cop, makes his grand entrance. The client puts on special music for their moment in his Mercedes, first asking Victor tenderly about his day. Victor replies, "Each day, less and less people in the street."

The old cop grumbles, "The street, always the street! You have looks, manners. You should be working in a bar."

Victor shoots him a knowing smile. "I know, Daddy." The domestic formalities over, they take care of business. They use a condom. Protection is what this relationship is all about.

Cozarinsky's camera is also up Victor's bum, following him into a coffee shop where another young street guy gives him a hard time about the cop. The two practice Tai Chi on a deserted street, then drop in on a luxury gym for a highly sensual shower. Then Victor splits, continuing to drink in the night.

Gradually, we realize it's Halloween, and soon Victor's world becomes shadowed by random acts of violence. Old memories and regrets surface, time speeds up and slows down, a female ex-lover reappears as if in a dream. This *tour de force* film possesses the magic of a great novel, challenging us to sort what is true from what is hallucination. One thing is certain: by film's end, you'll agree with Victor that "Buenos Aires by night is great." (Kabuki, 4/23, 25)

3-Iron This hard-to-describe film from Korean writer/director Kim



Photos courtesy of SFIFF

Ydessa, the Bears and Etc. is one of three short films in Cinévardaphoto.

small boy; and a dead goat, on a lonely stretch of beach. None of her subjects has a clue, and that's where the fun begins. The final piece from 1963, *Salut les Cubains*, is a visually fascinating if politically dated pro-Castro propaganda film shot when the Revolution was fresh and people had rosier hopes for the Maximum Leader. Nothing dates like old propaganda. (Kabuki, 4/22, 24; PFA, 4/27)

5x2 Openly gay French master Francois Ozon tackles the subject of the end of love in a film that spirals backwards in time from divorce to the first blush of passion. Unscreend, from a filmmaker who's never given us a dud. (Kabuki, 4/23, 25)

Palindromes "I'm not a pedophile."

"I know you're not, because pedophiles love children."

Todd Solondz's latest contains a bumper crop of jaw-dropping lines. Solondz's first four films are a virtual encyclopedia of uncomfortable feelings: all manner of unrequited love, body issues, and desires American society deems inappropriate. The buzz on this feature (in part, a sly satire on the religious war over abortion) concerns the filmmaker's choice of eight actors to play his heroine Aviva. Solondz, who argues that people always wind up the way they began (thus the metaphor of the palindrome), takes Aviva from the bosom of a self-centered liberal mom. Ellen Barkin is given a classic Solondz speech urging her daughter to have an abortion so she can still have money to spend on "N Sync tickets and Ben & Jerry."

Ultimately, Aviva falls head over heels for a Christian truck-driver whose sideline is murdering abortion doctors. An amusing diner scene has Joe and Aviva debating how they can safely pass through America as an intergen-

erational couple. Inspired as a kind of sequel to Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, the film was scripted after Solondz was unable to persuade Heather Matarazzo to reprise her Uber-nerd role as the popularity-challenged Dawn Wiener. (Kabuki, 4/23; PFA, 4/25)

Pursuit of Equality It was appropriate that same-sex marriage in San Francisco began on Lincoln's birthday. The anniversary of our most prominent gay president fell two days before Valentine's Day, and by the time the Ides of March loomed, almost 4,000 same-gender couples had their nuptials performed in our august City Hall. SF-born filmmakers Geoff Callan and Mike Shaw document the dizzying 30 days of Mayor Gavin Newsom's 2004 marital revolution, including the boyish politician's breezy description of how simple it was to amend the traditional marriage license: "We just changed husband and spouse to applicant one and applicant two."

There's also behind-the-scenes talk in the mayor's office as city officials discuss legal tactics to block a conservative Christian-inspired court challenge; the spectacle of burly Jesus freaks with Bibles and bullhorns trying to shout down enraged lesbians in a marrying mood; and the bitter tears of a 25-year-old man whose lesbian mom was denied a license to marry her female partner after driving down in a limo to the tune of "Going to the Chapel."

The filmmakers capture the chaos, the highs and lows, and the very human reactions of politicians like Mabel Tang, upset that couples were having to wait all night in the rain. Mayor Newsom apologizes to lesbian senior citizens and official couple #1 Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin for taking 36 days to launch his test of the Cal-

next page ▶

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House-squatter Tae-Suk in 3-Iron

Ki-Duk (*Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring*) contains not a single dull moment as it contemplates the house-squatting mania of a motorcycle-riding pretty guy on a singular mission, Tae-Suk (Jae Hee). His routine consists of checking out temporarily vacant apartments, spending the night in them, and repaying their occupants' unintended hospitality by fixing broken appliances and doing the laundry. One night, Tae-Suk's zany mission runs across the path of a young woman who's severely abused by her uptight husband. The story of how he engineers an extreme home makeover soon enters into the metaphysical. A sublimely comic/spiritual cautionary tale about domestic living, violence, and the danger of using your 3-iron on the public streets. (Kabuki, 4/22, 25)

Cinévardaphoto Veteran French filmmaker Agnes Varda presents three nonfiction films that challenge our myths about the life around us. In *Ydessa, the Bears and Etc.*, a curator presents a wacky collection of photos showing people holding teddy bears. Gradually the curator's purpose becomes clear, as we enter a room containing one very scary sculpture. In *Ulysse*, Varda attempts to get two people to recall the circumstances of a remarkable photo she shot of them: a naked man, butt to the camera; a



Palindromes is a kind of sequel to Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse*.

FILM

Desperate heartbeats

'Schizo' is a Kazakh boy in trouble

by David Lamble

A boy who is a breath away from manhood is riding a train, the tracks a scar across his country's terrible beauty: lakes without fisherman, fields without crops, men without jobs. The boy's name is Mustafa, but even he calls himself by the cruel schoolboy nickname "Schizo." His mother complains, "He can't study with normal kids."

Schizo, who speaks in cryptic half-sentences punctuated by boyish giggles, will, in quick order, lose his virginity, learn to trade for whatever he needs, gain a new family, and see two men die. *Schizo* is a splendidly-acted coming-of-age drama that ups the ante for its skinny-boy hero through a series of violently perplexing plot jumpcuts. At times, Schizo will almost lose his grip, but not our sympathy, in a desperate response to danger.

A decade back, Goldie Hawn cast herself as a hardscrabble waitress mom coping with Key West, Florida, where fish and drugs are the principal cash crops. Goldie was raising an impossibly beautiful 12-year-old son, newcomer David Arnett as a large-headed, dreamy-eyed, dopey kid who didn't appear to have enough sense to slap on suntan lotion, yet wound up being the movie's dramatic lynch-pin. When mom wasn't pole-dancing or serving flapjacks, she was hugging her Kris. Every picture tells a story, and *CrissCross* was a postcard-perfect picture of mother/son love that walks the right side of a shaky line separating good hugs from incest.

While it would be flip to call *Schizo* a *CrissCross* in *Kazakhstan*, the film does present a riveting portrait of a large-headed, dreamy-eyed, dopey kid of 14 who battles Asiatic thugs running an illegal boxing racket. He finds a substitute mom who quickly becomes his lover. *Schizo* manages a taboo-challenging thematic two-step while giving us as upbeat a story as is possible to imagine in a former Soviet Republic.

First-time director/co-writer (with Sergey Bodrov) Guka Omarova claims her inspiration came from a chance encounter with a battered young fighter who spilled his soul after a shot of vodka. Omarova delicately balances her film's bleak themes with



Schizo (Olzhas Nussuppaev) is a blank-faced, possibly disturbed young man.

haunting shots of a countryside resembling dust-bowl America, underscored by a soundtrack (from French-born composer Siegfried) that has the eerie, metallic flavor of barbed wire scraping across a violin.

Knock out

Schizo (Olzhas Nussuppaev) is a blank-faced and possibly disturbed young man whose mother takes him in for what passes for a mental-health checkup in this neck of the woods. He's put on a regimen of strange medicines in the custody of an outlaw uncle, Sakura (the raw-boned Eduard Tabyshev), who offers Schizo a job while they both are buck-naked, taking an outdoor shower. Schizo gets a close-up look at the world of illegal, bare-knuckle prize-fighting. The mismatches — without a referee, with only a janitor to mop up the blood — feature desperately poor peasants who may fight to the death. The demise of one such fighter, Ali (Thai boxing champ Renat, who was actually knocked out in a fight scene), prompts Schizo to befriend the man's crippled young widow Zinka (Olga Landina) and his grade-school-age son Sanzhik (Kanagat Nurtay).

Landina, who whistles while she cleans her kitchen all but in the buff, does a marvelous job al-

lowing her Zinka to traverse the slippery moral slope from being Schizo's fiery adult friend to being his lover. You can almost see the wheels spinning in the head of this woman. She confides to the boy her desire to find a Chinese husband, when it suddenly occurs to her that Schizo might himself be husband material.

It helps that actor Nussuppaev, recruited from a Kazakh orphanage, is the exact age Schizo is supposed to be: 14 teetering on 15. He's a kid whose Beatle-like bangs frame smoldering, dark eyes. He can play with Sanzhik's tiny toy cars, yet when Zinka asks what he'll drink, he answers, "Vodka."

It helps, too, that we never know exactly what Schizo's problem is. The fact that he can pronounce schizophrenia suggests that he's not a dim bulb, but rather a deceptively passive young man who can constantly surprise us, can pass through film noir's poetry of bad behavior and emerge not as a thug, but a player. Nussuppaev gives us a kid who is both shy and cool. After the shoot, the sound engineer confided to director Omarova that all through the production, the microphone attached to the young actor's flat chest captured a "desperate heartbeat." That heart fuels a moving drama in the poorest country you'll ever see. *Opens Friday.* ▼

an Constantine Costa-Gavras (based on Donald E. Westlake's novel). Bruno (TV actor Jose Garcia) is a man on a truly mad mission. Laid off from his cushy job as a product engineer, Bruno has decided to grab a spot on another corporate ladder by literally eliminating his competition. Despite the ghoulish sight of Bruno nailing one of his victims like a dying matador on the hood of his car, the filmmakers get you to root for him by framing the first 40 minutes as the confession of a suicidal man spoken into a digital memo-machine. It's a device stolen right out of Fred MacMurray's confessional narration in *Double Indemnity*.

We find ourselves pulling for this guy as he fires his dad's German pistol at a series of victims with deadly results. Garcia combines the sweaty, pugnacious resolve of Anthony LaPaglia with the nebbish guilelessness of Jack Lemmon. Never didactic, the film

spoons out the moral basis for Bruno's crimes in a series of set-pieces. Bruno takes time out from his own crimes to save his teenage son from going to jail for shoplifting computer software. The sight of a grown man hoping that garbage bags filled with software will sink to the bottom of a raging stream trumps hours of mushy rhetoric on the plight of the middle-class. (Castro, 4/21)

Layer Cake When the British turn crooked, they're right nasty at it. The feral, handsome Daniel Craig heads up an all-star cast of British goons who are devilishly efficient at serving up the double- and triple-cross. Will keep you guessing right up to its blood-gushing twist ending. (Kabuki, 4/26, 30) ▼

To be continued next week.
Info: www.sffs.org.

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SF Film Festival

◀ previous page

ifornia marriage law. This is a film that gives you a front seat to a new chapter in the civil rights movement. (Castro, 4/24)

Shepherds' Journey into the Third Millennium If you've ever desired to see a grown man cradle an adult sheep while sheering its woolly coat or clipping its hooves, don't miss this animal farm adventure in the wilds of the Swiss Alps. Sheep are very funny animals; when you tire of them, there are goats to consider. A great film tracking a fecund if dying lifestyle. (Kabuki, 4/25, 28; Aquarius, 5/4)

The Ax The Festival's opening night at the Castro features a deliciously dark satire on the theme of corporate downsizing from veter-

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Meet the American Brotherhood 2005 Family! From left: Girl Kim, Leatherman Kwame Banks, Leather Woman Amanda "Pup" Farrell, and American Leather Boy Ryan Setzkorn. They were chosen in Washington, D.C. over the weekend of April 14-17.

On top of America

American Brotherhood Weekend in D.C.

by Mister Marcus

They came, they saw, they conquered. The long months of regional and individual contests around the U.S. culminated last weekend, April 15-17, in Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (Arlington, Virginia, to be precise). The big competition saw seven men vying for American Leather Man, one woman competing for American Leather Woman, three girls going for the American Leather Girl title, and three boys aiming to win the American Leather Boy title.

The event made for some surprising contrasts. The lobby of the Sheraton-Arlington was jammed with the leather people and Christian groups and families side-by-side, vying for elevator space, rooms and restaurant services.

Room fees included a dazzling brunch each day and limo service to shopping areas and the nearby Reagan Airport (DCA). The hotel staff tried valiantly to please everyone, although Ron Walter of St. Louis was sorely disappointed he could not get a smoking room with a revolving door. Everyone else seemed satisfied. George Wong from Los Angeles had little trouble with the carpentry department installing his sling. Ultra Domme was seen sashaying around with her cute little hats, and a sash that read something about a Wuzzy.

There was the usual meet-and-greet on Friday night, and a very

nice reception by the Canadian Leather Family, with Paul Ciantar and Jayne Schmid hosting, on Saturday evening.

Everyone had some statement to make, including Girl Jen from Kansas City who made the word "Princess" the biggest joke/faux pas of the weekend. Imagine being "demoted" from "emperor" to "princess"!

The judges for this weekend included the outgoing titleholders, Robert Napolitano, "Storm", Terry Brown and Beth Abate, and I had fun judging too, along with Judy Tallwing, "Slavette", Keith Truitt and Rich Dockter.

Seven men were competing: Kwame Banks, Dale Rush, Jim Drew, Richard Denton, "Furby"

Cross, Cory Tyler and James West. One woman, Amanda "Pup" Ferrell, was the only woman competing for American Leather Woman. Three boys, Ryan Setzkorn, Tim Woody and Darren Willard, joined with three girls, Girl Jen, Girl Kim and Girl Mary, to face the judges in all categories.

Mr. Dixie Belle Leather Randy and Mr. Washington State Leather Rusty sang the National Anthem before each day's competition, and Frank Nowicki proved once more to be the ultimate Master of Ceremonies.

Several awards and certificates of appreciation were handed out (too numerous to mention here), and the basket auctions netted \$4,910 for the travel fund, \$1,255 from the bootblacks donations, and some \$3,800 for Pediatric AIDS.

Auctioneer Jo Arnone from

New York again "strong armed" people into yielding cash from their wallets and plastic with some not-too-pretty name calling when the bidding was not to her liking.

Some 15 IML contestants were present. Only two IML 2005 judges were there, but the traditional "IML Men at ABW" photo was taken with a horde of paparazzi invading the premises, including the infamous "Sophia" who was forced by former IML Jill Carter to apologize to other photographers she has offended.

It was announced too, that former American Leather Man Dean Ogren and former American Leather Woman Sheryl Dee will join the producer staff of ABW for the future, and it was "hinted" that the 2006 contest site might be shifted to that hotel in Washington, D.C. where the assassination attempt was made on Ronald Reagan's life. Stay tuned.

After all the awards, accolades, special gifts, thank you's and graciousness, tally masters Peter Kincheloe and Peter Lloyd delivered the tally results to the stage. The outgoing titleholders delivered their stepping aside speeches the night before at an elaborate banquet for the ABW delegates (Robert 39 minutes, Storm 34 minutes, Terry 11 minutes and Girl Beth 29 minutes) and the moment of truth arrived.

In the American Girl category: 2nd runner-up Girl Mary, 1st runner Girl Jen, American Leather Girl 2005 Kim Holcomb from Atlanta, Georgia.

In the American Boy Category: 2nd runner-up Tim Woody, 1st runner-up Darren Willard, Amer-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 21

First half of the Bare Chest Contest 2006 finals at the Powerhouse tonight at 2200. See the first six for next year's calendar chosen.

Weekend, April 22-24

SnuggleFest 2005 in San Diego to name California Cub/Grizzly 2005. For info: www.cubclubca.com.

Black & Tans annual "Spring Maneuvers" in the L.A. Area. For more info, surf to: www.blackandtans.org.

Saturday, April 23

Women's Motorcycle Contingent ride and beer/soda bust. Ride is at 12 Noon. Bust from 1500 to 1800. Reserve ride space by email to kelly@slfwmc.org. A benefit to cover legal expenses to keep the "Dykes on Bikes" name open for all to use.

Sunday, April 24

AEF annual "Fortune Teller's Ball" with a \$100

fee at the IMG Home (1830 Harrison St.) For details: www.aidsemergencyfund.org.

Wednesday, April 27

Leather Buddies monthly get-together at 933 Harrison. If you don't know the rules, call 777-HEAD.

Thursday, April 28

Second half of the Bare Chest Calendar 2006 finals at the Powerhouse at around 2200. Be there to see the final winners for next year's edition.

Weekend, April 29-May 1

CLAW leather weekend in Cleveland, Ohio with scads of events and NO contest

Tribal Fire Leather weekend in Oklahoma City. For more info, zoom to www.tribalfireokc.com.

Dynamic Diversions in Denver, a bdsm party for women, sponsored by Phillis Darcy, former American Leather Woman. Go to: www.dynamicdiversionsindenver.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tie me up, tie me down

'13 Years of Bondage' from Rick Castro

by John F. Karr

Rick Castro's bondage photography is anything but straitlaced. Or perhaps I should say it's everything but. The handsomely produced and generous new collection of his work, *13 Years of Bondage* (Fluxion Editions, \$46), is ample demonstration. Unlike so much S&M and bondage photography, dour and one-dimensional, and either content to be mere documentation or not accomplished enough to be more than, Castro is technically accomplished, as well as creative, probing, uncommonly witty, and above all else, personally engaged.

The 47-year-old Castro has had a tumultuous career. He's been trendsetting and influential in the fashion world as a stylist for the top magazines; he's studied with and worked for such acclaimed artists as Joel-Peter Witkin and Herb Ritts; and he's had an impact on independent film, most notably as the co-writer and director of *Hustler White*. His photographs have been frequently exhibited, and are archived at The Alfred Kinsey Institute for Sexual Research. He's roamed the underground, been a focal point of International Mr. Leather events, and knows leather and bondage first-hand. He's lived the life he depicts.

13 Years of Bondage is a choice summation of Castro's work. The sharply reproduced black-and-white photographs cover a time Castro sees as a dark period, when sex was radicalized. In the early 1990s, he began to document the hustlers of LA's Santa Monica Boulevard. They were sexual extremists, and the photographs that explore their sexuality are riddled with the fetishistic wonders. Yes, you can marvel at the beauty of the knots, and the intricacy of the webbing. You can meditate and even empathize with the curious mix of constraint and freedom that is bondage. But hold on for the book's leather, body-shaving, mummification, scars, deformities, clamped nipples, cockringed hard-ons, tattoos, pierces and stretches. Yet while feasting on the stimulating smorgasbord of kink, you may be struck less by the fetish than by the personality of the model. These are character studies.

Like the porn of yore, which had a doctor in a white coat to tell viewers it was socially redeeming, *13 Years of Bondage* has multiple introductions. Chuck Renslow testifies for the IML and the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago; Catherine Johnson weighs in for the Kinsey Institute; and artist and author Mark



'The Happy Accident' (1997): bondage as a mix of constraint and freedom.

Christopher Harvey (who edited and designed *13 Years*) notes that the photos' "iconic quality [is] leavened by wry humor and sharp wit," with their playful and culturally referential titles adding multiple levels.

Noted critic, historian, curator and author Edward Lucie Smith contributes the longest preface. His dense academic jargon validates the photos with scholarly critique. But while most of it boils down to concepts that could be much more simply stated, he does discuss a unique factor of bondage photography — in bondage, the body is simultaneously active and passive, potent yet impotent. Castro capitalizes on this tension, and his photographs of the most contained objects bristle with energy. Much of this comes from their overt sexuality, which Castro is unafraid of. In addition to all the intellectual things that can be said about Castro's work, it's a real turn-on. Another energizing factor is Castro's uncontrollable wit, which shows not just in his playful titles, but his playful posings and unclouded sexuality. Finally, Castro's personal engagement with his subjects is undeniable. He revels in their life's blood. It's fashionable to be objec-

tive/rational, but Castro is intuitive, emotional. It isn't emotional. But it's alive to a degree shown by no other fetish photographer I know. And that lets Castro take us There, where we intuitively understand. His fantasies become ours.

One of my favorite photos is the sexually charged architectural study "Two Triangles," in which elastic cording stretches from tied off and alarmingly bulging nipples down to a cockring mooring, where it intersects the white triangle of a Speedo tan-line. The nipples are erogenous in the extreme, the cock plump, and the architecture that connects them so smart and simple. Another is the comic "Eadweard Muybridge Disco Dance Study," four panels of nude disco-dancing taken in ostensible stop-motion. There are photos of incredibly beautiful young men, and some of men whose beauty we have to learn to appreciate. And there are plentiful studies of the young Tony Ward, a fetish in himself to many — Tony in bondage, Tony wearing a monstrous black strap-on dildo, Tony as a Biker Babe. *13 Years of Bondage* is a limited edition which can take you quite amazingly to places beyond your limits. ▼

of Brooklyn, New York.

It was a scintillating weekend on the outskirts of the nation's capital and plans are underway for the 2006 Edition. Stay tuned.

Odds and ends . . .

The Satyr MC of Los Angeles beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern in San Francisco on Sunday, April 16 played to a sell-out crowd, and congratulations are due to the Satyr on their 50th anniversary year!

At my deadline, the Golden Dildeaux Awards winners were not in my mailbox, but congratulations to all the winners.

IML, Inc. invites all clubs to

present their colors at the closing ceremonies of IML 2005 in Chicago on Sunday night after the contest in a new addition to the schedule. For info, visit www.iml.com. Sign up your club at the IML Registration Desk by 1600 on Sunday, May 29th.

Folsom Street Events invites local agencies, clubs, and groups to list their events during Leather Pride Week in September for free. Be brief and send to: fse@folsomstreetevents.org or FAX to 415-861-2312.

So long for a while. Stay happy, healthy, giving as well as receiving and beware of those "bearing false witness." ▼

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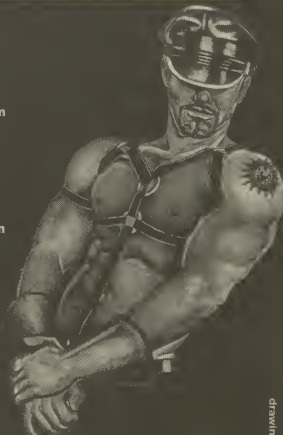
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ican Leather Boy 2005 Ryan Setzkorn of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In the American Leather Woman category, Amanda had to get 70 percent of the available points to win the title and she managed to win in a landslide. American Leather Woman 2005 is Amanda "Pup" Farrell, of Eaton-town, New Jersey.

In the American Leather Man category: The 2nd runner-up was Jim Drew; 1st runner-up was Dale Rush and American Leather Man 2005 is Kwame "Black Cat" Banks

Bumping booty and civic duty

The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd

by Donna Sachet

Juanita More's *Booty Call* 4, a portrait exhibition at Warehouse 1310, was the place to be last Friday night. The feel of the space and the crowd reminded us of the edgy art openings that we remember in Tribeca or Soho in New York. Her photographic portraits captured some intriguing poses and stimulated spirited conversation. The mob respectfully parted when Veronica Klaus entered looking radiant, but no one could upstage Juanita herself, surrounded by her More Boys

and swathed in metallic fabric. We'll be sharing Grand Marshal duties with her for the Pride Parade this year (a hearty thank you to all who voted) and can hardly wait to see the vehicle she chooses.

The Golden Dildeaux Awards, created by the inimitable Mr. Marcus and sponsored by the Golden Gate Guards Motorcycle Club, certainly lived up to their riotous reputation on Saturday night at the Eagle Tavern. (We are so delighted to read elsewhere in this publication that the rumors of this establishment's demise are premature.) This is the only awards event that actually presents trophies to individuals for their sexual exploits. Public nominations are held, and final nominees are published, with ballots supplied for a dollar a piece at many bars throughout the city. Proceeds go to the AIDS Emergency Fund. We shared emcee responsibilities with the dashing Lenny Broberg, and he was his usual witty, irreverent self. Beyond top awards going to Scott Larsen and The Edge, suffice it to say that

several Empresses of San Francisco were roundly embarrassed, and one individual walked off with three wins from his five nominations. Warren Williams, president of the Golden Gate Guards, and Hobbit, coordinator of the show, are to be congratulated on the colorful set, improved gilded awards, and preparation including team competitions between neighborhoods.

Between award presentations, we were entertained by Philip Evans and Chika, after one of the fastest costume changes in recorded history.

Our own Patti LaBelle brought the show to a rousing conclusion, forever losing one of her high heels on the roof of the legendary patio. We finished the night off at the nearby Stud. You may have joined in on the fun of the weekly Sugar on Saturday nights at The Stud, but now there is Super Sugar, once a month and twice as wild! Spend a night dancing and cruising at this legendary bar. After 11 p.m., you can barely move!

Don't miss the AIDS Emergency Fund's *Fortune Tellers' Ball* on Sunday, April 24, at IMG Home, 1830 Harrison St. With a



Donna Sachet with Juanita More and a few More Boys at *Booty Call* 4.

live and silent auction, edibles, drinkables, and a host of psychics, astronomers, tarot card and palm

live and silent auction, edibles, drinkables, and a host of psychics, astronomers, tarot card and palm

readers, you're sure to enjoy the night and perhaps gain insight into your future.

This Tuesday, we'll be performing with Juanita More, Mistress Morgana, Suppositori Spelling, and others at 7 *Inch Heels* and a *Microphone*, a benefit sponsored by Queer Alliance, a student organization at SF State University. On Thursday at *San Francisco Notables*, a benefit party for Creativity Explored at 111 Minna Gallery, we'll see ourselves through the eyes of various artists as they display images of everyone from Mayor Gavin Newsom and Senator Barbara Boxer to Mr. SF Leather Dodger Allen and famed author Armistead Maupin, followed or preceded by dinner at one of the many restaurants signed up for *Dining Out for Life*, a benefit for the Stop AIDS Project. Last year's night at Chenery Park with Supervisor Bevan Dufty was a riot. We were nearly hired on the spot!

Finally, a little word to the wise. At the upcoming GLAAD Media Awards in SF on June 11, one of the live auction items will be a walk-on role on the smash new series *Desperate Housewives*! Get those credit cards ready! ▼

On The Town

Spheres of influence

Reissued CD sets from pioneering bands and artists

by Gregg Shapiro

Released in its original version more than 25 years ago, the debut album by The Cure, *Three Imaginary Boys* (Fiction/Elektra/Rhino), now available in an expanded reissue, is a decent introduction to a band that would go on to establish its own particular identity. Traces of that identity, such as Robert Smith's distinctive vocal style, The Cure's guitar sound, and the general melancholic tone of the music, are all present and make this disc of value in terms of historic and referential purposes. Of equal relevance is the 20-track bonus disc which consists of home, demo and previously unreleased recordings, some of which (including "Boys Don't

Cry") would later surface on other Cure albums.

At around the same time that The Cure was beginning to get their feet wet in the music business, the all-female band The Slits were having their say. A short-lived unit, The Slits' most acclaimed release, the 1979 debut *Cut* (Koch Records/Universal Music Special Markets) is now available on CD. Influenced by both the punk and reggae/dub influences of the time, *Cut* has an irresistible dub vibe that comfortably shares space with edgier punk cuts.

More than 20 years ago, before we had ever heard the terms in-

surgent country or "no depression," or heard of Wilco or Neko Case, bands such as Rubber Rodeo and Rank and File were making what was generally referred to as cow-punk. A surprisingly good fit, strange bedfellows punk and Country & Western yielded some worthwhile recordings. Rank and File's three albums — *Sundown*, *Long Gone Dead* (originally released on Slash) and their final, self-titled album on Rhino — have now been reissued on CD (Collectors' Choice Music) in their original versions. The legendary Alejandro Escovedo joined Slim Evans and brothers Chip and Tony Kinman on *Sun-*

down. Even without Escovedo on *Long Gone Dead*, Rank and File maintained the momentum and promise of its debut before completely running out of steam on the third album.

Suicide notes

The influence of '80s electro duo Suicide (Alan Vega and Martin Rev) can also still be heard today, particularly in the work of the electroclash bands popping up everywhere. Originally released in 1988, more than 10 years after their debut album, *A Way of Life* (Blast First/Mute), produced by Ric Ocasek, has been reissued

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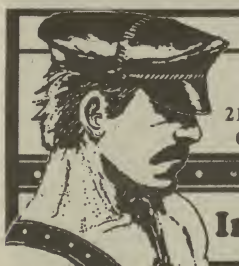
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Image Leather

by Sweet Lips

Do you remember when I was Ms. Cowgirl of '73-'74? If you do, then honey, you are a legend in your own right! One who does remember is Ms.

Cowgirl of '81-'82, Ms. Ronnie Lynn. Remember, girl-friend? Those were great times in the city!

The fun continues right up to today. You can be anything you want in this town — male, female, drag queen, tranny. It all works here, as any working girl in Polk Gulch can tell you.

If it's drag you're looking for in San Francisco, be sure to check out the "Hot Boxxx Girls" at Aunt Charlie's Lounge (133 Turk St.) who "Just Wanna Have Fun" on Fridays and Saturday nights at 10

p.m. Lots of very talented individuals put on a great show there, so don't miss it. Gina La Divina hosts on Fridays, and Kristy Cruise leads the pack on Saturdays. DJ Vicki Marlane spins music for your ears.

Another great place for drag entertainment is Diva's Nightclub and Bar at 1081 Post Street, a place for Trannies and the Chasers who love them. It's a great place to be, no matter which of the three floors you

end up on.

Of course there's great drag entertainment with Fauxgirls! at Marlena's, at 488 Hayes Street, where they put on a fun show every second and fourth Saturday night. The night is co-hosted by Victoria Secret and Alexandria.

If it's cocktails in a class bar

you're looking for, don't forget that Ginger's Trois, in the heart of the Financial District, at 246 Kearney St. (between Sutter and Bush), is open on Saturday and they still get a great crowd of "Downtown" types.

For a friendly neighborhood bar with great DJs and good stiff drinks, check out the Cinch Saloon.

The hunky Tim is holding forth at the Cinch Saloon at 1723 Polk St., along with all the other fine tenders of the brew.

The Mix on 18th Street in the Castro is open at 6 a.m. and I understand some folks are lined up to get in ... right, Jim Lord?

People-watching is still a hot activity at the Twin Peaks, at the corner of 17th & Castro (at Market). What a grand location it is as the whole Castro passes by! George, you have done a great job with the bar and with your excellent staff. ▼



Sweet Lips

MUSIC

Rousset

◀ Arts cover

wonder. Again like Argerich, there is a growing sense of assurance and spontaneity that make Rousset's playing ever more astounding. There's time for the sudden new turn of phrase that you know is taking place for the first time while the microphones are on, the blink of a new perception of the familiar. But it was probably always so. It's like that with these singular musicians whose relationship with a box of wood and wire approaches the mystical.

Less contrapuntal than the English Suites, the French Suites pose different technical problems. They were probably written as instructional pieces for one of Bach's sons. Naturally, they're no less carefully made, but there's a sense of greater freedom about them that is mother's milk (or perhaps vintage Scotch) to Rousset the improvisateur. Rhythms just don't get sounder yet more flexible than his, and his playing boasts a buoyancy and swing even when it's at its most grave. He digs deep into the keys for the Allemande of the Fourth Suite, which begins the two-CD set, but its forward momentum is almost animal.

Bravura display

As always, what makes his playing so satisfying is the Olympian view he has of the music: every detail is carefully characterized, but it's all integrated into a living, breathing, captivating whole. The bravura on display throughout the ensuing movements of the Fourth Suite is dispatched with indecent ease yet without the bad aftertaste of self-satisfaction. This is not a musician who worries about wrong notes — if he ever plays them. The pointillist accuracy he brings to bear on the acrobatically sprung rhythms of the Second Suite's Gigue is



Bringing pointillism to Bach.

enough to induce vertigo.

Fans of his special flair for musical kink may want to proceed directly to the Sixth Suite, at the end of disc 1. From its innocent, familiar beginnings, it grows into an increasingly fascinating, almost grotesque creature across its nine movements. The "Polish minuet" just past the halfway point is a particularly savory 83 seconds. The loopy, rhythmically off-kilter Gavotte of the Fifth Suite, which begins disc 2, shows his mercurial musical mind at its most colorful, and the Courante of the subsequent First Suite at its spookiest.

These two discs feature playing of unflagging imagination. About all they have in common with Jian Wang's new recording of the even more famous Unaccompanied Cello Suites (DG) is that the suites are not played in order. With this two-CD set, Wang proves conclusively that Baroque music is not what he's meant to play in public. Luckily, he has more important work to do elsewhere, and does it.

Although he saves the best for last with his Fifth Suite, it's too little, too late. When the playing is not borderline inept (the rhythms are flaccid, not loose, the phrasing a mess), it's merely uninteresting. ▼

Reissued CD sets

◀ previous page

with a bonus disc of live recordings from '87. On the first few tracks, one can hear the variety of musical styles that the duo incorporated into its synthetically-driven music, made somewhat more human by Vega's deep vocals, and recognize their influence on contemporary music.

As a member of what was fondly dubbed the "California Music Mafia," singer/songwriter Andrew Gold helped to define the sound and style of music that ruled the charts throughout the mid-to-late '70s. Best known for his hits "Thank You for Being a Friend" and "Lonely Boy," Gold's four albums from that era — his self-titled debut, *What's Wrong With This Picture?*, *All This and Heaven Too*, and *Whirlwind* (Collectors' Choice Music) — have been reissued with between four and six bonus tracks per album. We also have the bonus of Gold's revealing liner notes, which give a sense of the excitement of the times.

When John Lennon, one of the greatest songwriters of all time, released an album of cover tunes, people paid attention. *Rock 'n' Roll* (Capitol), originally released in 1975, recently reissued with bonus tracks, picked up where the early Beatles recordings left off, as Lennon sang some of the songs that inspired him to create our culture's most enduring music. You may have heard songs such as "Be-Bop-a-Lula," "Stand By Me," "Ain't That a Shame" and "Peggy

Sue" too many times to count, but in Lennon's hands, they sound renewed and respectfully retro.

Also influential, Robert Plant and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin even went on to cover themselves. That's right, on the "unplugged," or "unleaded" *No Quarter* (Atlantic), reissued in a re-configured version, Page and Plant revisit Led Zeppelin and even introduce newer songs in less harsh surroundings.

Merrilee Rush got to Chip Taylor's "Angel of the Morning" first, and had a hit with it in 1968. Others followed, including Juice Newton in the early '80s and later Shaggy, whose 2000 *Angel* heavily sampled the song. Rush's version remains the most familiar, and the reissued, expanded album *Angel of the Morning* (Collector's Choice Music), credited to Merrilee Rush and the Turnabouts, includes the title track as well as a number of period pieces.

Diahann Carroll's influence on future generations probably has more to do with her acting work, particularly on television in the groundbreaking '60s series *Julia*, then in the '80s nighttime soap opera *Dynasty*, but it is still worth noting her musical career. Proving that Ashanti is not the first African-American performer to juggle both a singing and an acting career, Carroll did both, beginning in the '50s. A pair of her '60 albums, *Diahann Carroll: The Andre Previn Trio* and *The Persian Room* presents Diahann Carroll, have been reissued on the single CD *The Magic of Diahann Carroll* (DRG), reminding us of her versatility. ▼

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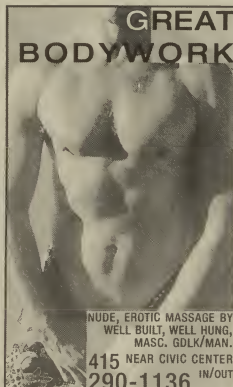
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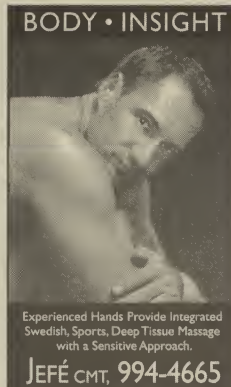
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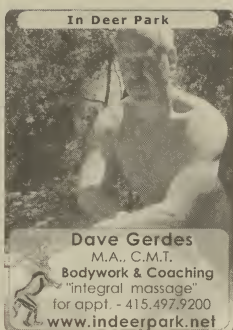
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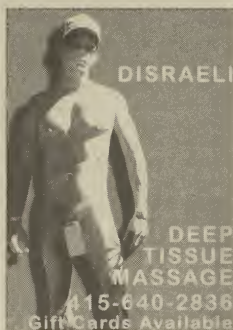
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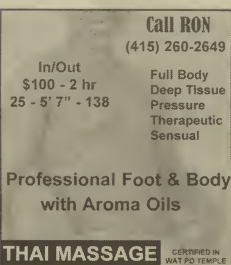
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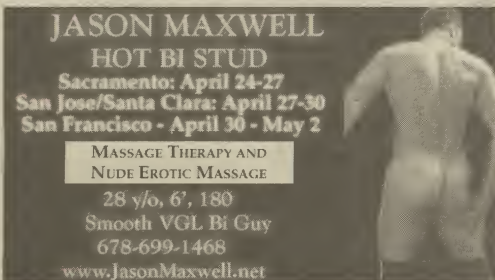
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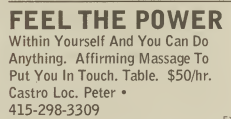
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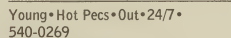
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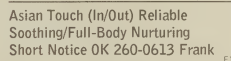
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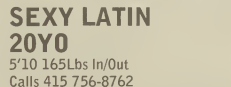
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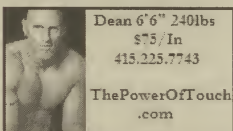
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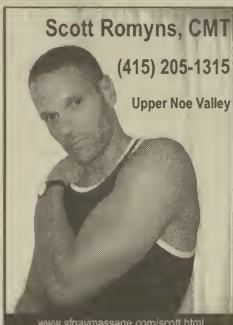
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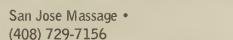


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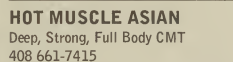
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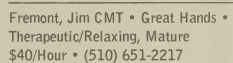
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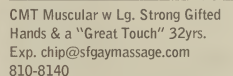
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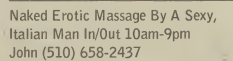
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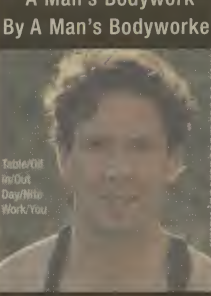


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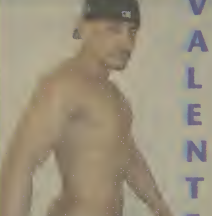
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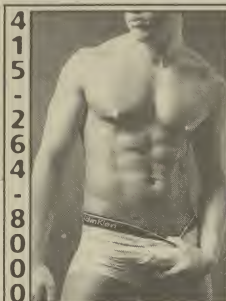
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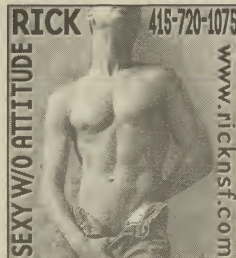
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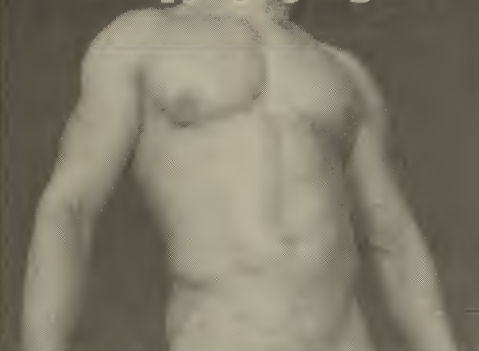
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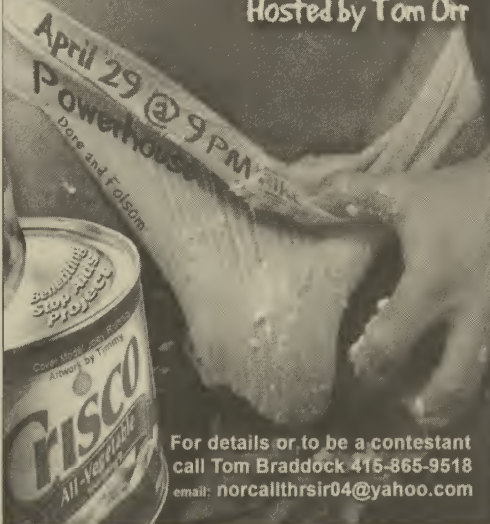
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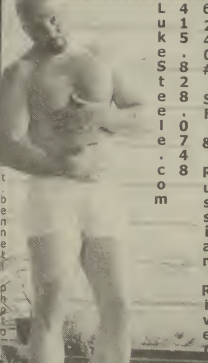
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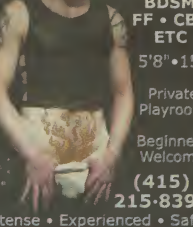
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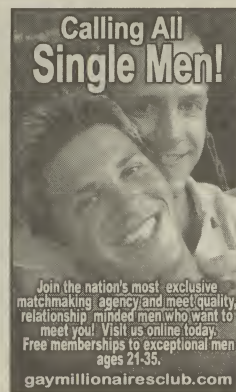
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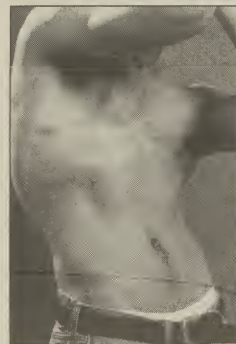


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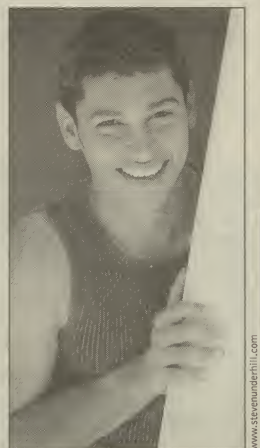
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